

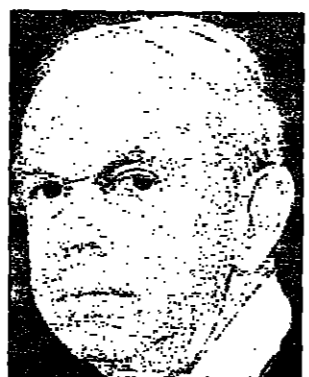
30... Book via Internet and fly easyJet from only £34 return... Why teenagers love the family... World Cup... Check your score, p 36... Celia Brayfield page 19

Neill retreats over conflict of interest

Anti-sleaze chief drops Dame Shirley

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE official anti-sleaze watchdog backed down last night and cut his links with Dame Shirley Porter...



Neill: accused of being naive

that he was taking Dame Shirley's case to the Court of Appeal on the "cab-rank principle" under which barristers took cases as they emerged...



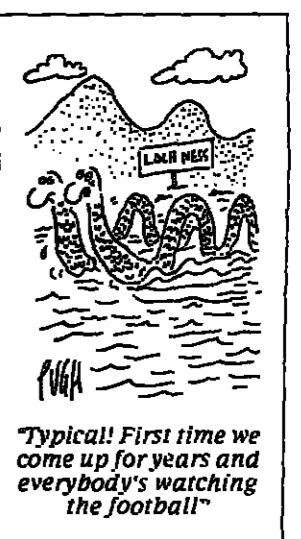
Macaulay Culkin and his bride Rachel Miner, who married in secret on Sunday

Scotland kiss goodbye to their World Cup dream

By Damian Whitworth and Shirley English

SCOTLAND made their usual first round exit from the World Cup last night after a surprise defeat by Morocco that left the Tartan Army of supporters crying into their beer...

German crackdown, page 4 World Cup, pages 40-43, 48



Typical! First time we come up for years and everybody's watching the football!

TV & RADIO... WEATHER... CROSSWORDS... LETTERS... OBITUARIES... SIMON JENKINS... ARTS... CHESS & BRIDGE... COURT & SOCIAL... SPORT... HOMES... FEATURES

Hingis beats rain The Swede Martina Hingis, the defending champion, won her opening match against the American Lisa Raymond...

Debt-ridden Tories given £250 limit

THE Tory financial crisis has become so acute that a moratorium was imposed yesterday at Central Office on any expenditure, even by Lord Parkinson, the party chairman...

Home alone no longer

MACAULAY CULKIN, the 17-year-old former child film star, has married his teenage fiancée in a private ceremony attended by only their closest friends and family...

Lords inflict worst defeat on Labour

THE House of Lords was last night plunged into open conflict with the Government when peers inflicted Labour's worst defeat since the election...

Buying The Times overseas... 770140 046237



Fossil of the turkey-sized Protarchaeopteryx

Feathered dinosaurs lift theory of birds' origin

TWO feathered dinosaurs found in northeastern China lend fresh support to the idea that birds are descended from dinosaurs...



A model based on the fossil of Caudipteryx

"Football today would certainly not be the same if it had never existed." ELTON WELSBY... Want to hear plain English? ABBEY NATIONAL... Because life's complicated enough.

Victim hardly singed by inquisitors who promised a grilling

Slavering journalists jockeying for seats near the guillotine were told by Rhodri Morgan, the Public Administration Committee chairman: "There's a big screen upstairs. You can watch it there." We needn't have bothered. As the opening skirmish in Prime Minister's official-spokesmanate, yesterday's grilling of he-who-must-not-be-named flopped badly. Alastair Campbell — oops, sorry, delete — was not so much grilled as very slightly singed.

The plot was supposed to run thus: Blair's communications supremo grown too big for boots... paid by taxpayer but kicking Tory butt for Labour... Perry-Mason-style committee of MPs corner him into humiliating admission of overstepping mark. "Our committee," Mr Morgan had boasted earlier, "patrols frontiers of Bosnia-like sensitivity."

But of course Morgan's geography is all wrong. The boundaries between political and governmental activity are better compared with the disputed Amazonian frontier between Ecuador and Peru: no map, no agreement where the border runs at all, no man's-land of huge proportions, dense undergrowth and millions of trees. In these thickets Mr Morgan's amateurish little committee thrashed hopelessly around for an afternoon but never caught sight of their prey. From trees far yonder the distant laughter of Mr Campbell, frolicking with the Howler monkeys, mocked their efforts.

Orwellian Newspeak proved an effective monkey rope on which to swing away. The word "control", for instance, has been removed from the language. Was the press secretary at No 10 not able to control more than his predecessor? "Co-ordination, not control," was the reply. Did he boss ministers around? "Ministers need to co-ordinate their positions." Did he not overstep the mark

and stray into politics? No, he needed "the ability to operate at the margins, in a political context."

Was he a propagandist? Ah no, not that: "There has to be an effective and coherent communications strategy." Would he release the tapes of his "on the record" press briefings? "We don't do transcripts, we do summaries." Why not?

"Tapes are not needed for operational reasons."

Like his master, Mr Campbell's English is going Estuerial. "Wha' yer do get...?" he said, and "We did qu' a lo'."

Had he tasked the Tories' Andrew Tyrie described a press report of Mr Blair's conversations with the Italian Prime Minister in these terms: "It's balls. That's crap?"

"I may have said that."

"Can I take that as an affirmation?"

"It was colourful."

Only once did Tyrie come

near to cornering the beast. He quoted Blair as saying that Campbell was doing a good job "anacking the Conservative Party". Was that indeed his job? No, said Campbell. This was a headline Tyrie was not going to get: "Campbell Attacks Blair".

"But did he describe your role erroneously?"

"He was referring to the mild paranoia of the Opposition."

"But did he describe your role accurately?"

"I was referring to the Tories."

"Yes or no?"

Campbell could not say the Prime Minister was right and dared not say he was wrong. So he said nothing. The very faintest odour of singeing floated across the committee room. But the grilling went no further.

Some had thought Campbell would be skewered, but every stab failed. Campbell was nervous, cautious, on guard. Sooner or later such a man hangs himself: but when given rope, not stick. MPs can only give stick. Time will give him rope.



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Tory cash

Continued from page 1
approved by one of three directors at Central Office.

The Times reported last month that 40 jobs would go when Mr Norman, the party vice chairman who masterminded the revitalisation of Asda, took over.

The process began yesterday. In a letter to MPs, agents and constituency chairmen, a copy of which has been passed to The Times, Mr Norman said they had to adjust their costs to live within their means.

"On this point I want to be blunt. It is not surprising that at this stage in the political cycle our finances should be at a low ebb. But our current position needs to change: we intend therefore to examine all aspects of our spending to ensure that every penny contributes to our political objectives."

The party's finances are so poor a number of MPs have been unable to have their computer modems serviced because of a billing dispute with the computer company.

The overdraft at the Royal Bank of Scotland has reached its £4 million ceiling and will not be extended any further. Last week the Tories approved a £15 membership fee to try to raise £4.5 million in an attempt to balance the books.

One long serving Tory official said: "It is absolutely desperate. We are literally counting the paper clips and switching the lights off in every room."

Among the people who will lose their jobs are the agents who run constituency associations whose costs are currently paid direct from party headquarters because the local Tories are too hard-up to pay.

But Mr Norman, in his letter, is unrepentant. "Despite our very considerable expenditure we are not achieving the teamwork, consistency, and effectiveness of campaigning on the ground that we need."

Tories have however taken heart from one aspect of the Norman review. When he arrived at Asda he axed hundreds of jobs from a company which was almost £1 billion in debt. It is now a profit making market leader which has taken on 20,000 new workers.

No 10 press chief denies briefing against ministers

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

ALASTAIR CAMPBELL, the Prime Minister's chief press secretary, yesterday denied that he had described Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, as "psychologically flawed" in briefings to journalists.

He also told the Commons Public Administration Committee that he had never briefed against other Cabinet members, such as Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, and David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

He said he agreed with the Speaker that the problem of leaking and trailing policy announcements was getting worse. But he emphasised that he did not carry out either activity. "I have got no doubt whatever that people brief the press when they shouldn't. It may annoy the Speaker and it regularly annoys me."

His comments came as he gave evidence alongside Robin Mountfield, Permanent Secretary of the Office of Public Service, and Mike Grannatt, head of the Government Information and Communication Service, to the public administration committee in their inquiry into the Government's information service.

Tapes of the twice-daily briefings with political jour-

nalists given by Mr Campbell could in future be retained as part of the Government's official record, it emerged.

Such a move would inevitably lead to the broadcast of his briefings on television and radio, because the retention of an electronic record would be subject to the present government code on access to freedom of information and future laws. MPs might also be allowed to listen to the tapes to check any controversial or disputed remarks made by Mr Campbell.

Mr Campbell confirmed he would discuss the possibility of such a move with Mr Blair and senior government officials, but he conceded there was nothing to stop a journalist from replaying any tape of his briefing on radio or television.

He was reluctant however to give a personal view about routine retention of tapes and emphasised that he did not wish to personalise his role.

He had already allowed his briefings to be "on-the-record" and had authorised summaries of his briefings to be circulated to every government press office.

His decision to consider storing the tape-recordings followed persistent question-

ing from David Ruffley, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds, about his role in the controversy over the telephone call between Mr Blair and Signor Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister.

Reports suggested Mr Blair had intervened to help Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corporation (parent company of The Times), to buy into Italian broadcasting.

Some journalists had claimed that Mr Campbell had changed his account about the nature of the conversation between the two men.

Mr Ruffley asked for a transcript of his briefing to journalists on the issue and also asked why he had not produced the tape to "clear up" his role in the affair.

Mr Campbell said that his press office did not keep transcripts for posterity but wrote summaries from the tapes, and he did not know if one still existed relating to the telephone call.

He would check if one did, however, and would send it to the public administration committee. He insisted, however: "At no stage have I ever said that Rupert Murdoch was discussed."



Alastair Campbell leaving the Commons after appearing before MPs yesterday

Attlee created the party's first master of spin

By Valerie Elliott

ALISTAIR CAMPBELL has much in common with Downing Street's first prime ministerial spin-doctor, Francis Williams, who was brought into Downing Street by Clement Attlee in 1945.

Williams was one of the leading journalists of the period and had been Editor of the Labour-supporting Daily Herald. Like Mr Camp-

bell he was closely involved in shaping the Labour movement of his day and in his memoirs he recalls: "Most of the Cabinet were old friends of mine." Newspapers commented that he "seemed to have the status almost of a minister."

During the war Williams had been a key civil servant in the Ministry of Information. When Williams was taken on after Labour's landslide victory, he was,

of course, able to work without the glare of television and had a low profile. In those days, however, political journalists too wrote unsigned reports in their publications and so the relationship between Williams and members of the tight group of journalists in the parliamentary lobby was close.

Although the post did not exist before Williams, George Steward, a diplomat, was brought in to

Downing Street in 1951 to help with press relations during the financial crisis. He stayed on into the war but his role had nothing in common with that of Williams.

Since Williams a press secretary has existed more or less constantly in Downing Street. His job is to work for the Government collectively and is not just to speak on behalf of the Prime Minister.

Only Winston Churchill was also

to press relations, first dispensing with the post altogether, and then appointing a journalist turned civil servant called Fife Clark. But he was not allowed to have an office at No 10, and Churchill insisted the press should be kept at arm's length.

It was not until the age of television politics that Bernard Ingham, with his adversarial style, became the first star in the post under Margaret Thatcher.

The Commons committee report is just one of hundreds of documents submitted but is the most damning so far of the way Mr Rooker reached his decision. MPs said that advice from the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment was based on an 11-year-old, "scientifically unjustifiable" study.

The committee agreed that evidence that the vitamin worked was inconclusive but said people should be allowed to make up their own minds.

Vitamin evidence is flawed, say MPs

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

GOVERNMENT plans to restrict the sale of Vitamin B6 are based on scientifically unjustifiable evidence, an all-party committee of MPs has concluded.

In a scathing attack on the independent experts who advised the Government, the Agriculture Select Committee says they are stubborn, defensive, curt to the point of rudeness and palpably wrong.

The report says there is simply not enough evidence to justify the proposal by Jeff Rooker, the Food Safety Minister, to limit pills readily available to a 10mg daily dose.

Mr Rooker said last July that he wanted to limit use of B6 because of research showing that it might cause nerve damage if a high dose was taken over a long period. He said he was advised that pills containing more than 50mg should be available only on prescription and chemists would control sales of tablets with between 11 and 49mg.

After thousands of protest letters from some of the three million people who take the vitamin regularly, Mr Rooker agreed to hold a public consultation before bringing in the regulations needed to control sales. The consultation period ends on Friday and ministers will then consider the evidence before deciding how to regulate sales.

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US volunteers test Aids vaccine

BY OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

The first of 5,000 volunteers was injected with a new vaccine against HIV-1 yesterday at the start of a three-year trial in America. Made from a protein derived from the coating of the HIV virus, it has no genetic material so is not live and cannot infect those injected. The vaccine has just been approved by America's Food and Drug Agency, making it possible for the trial to go ahead there.

Dan T. Reiner, the trial's chief operating officer, said that tests on 16 chimpanzees had shown the vaccine was completely effective. Eight had been given it and then all 16 had been injected with the HIV virus. The eight who were vaccinated did not become infected.

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Court told Christie was 'Judy Garland of the 100 metres'

Libel trial hears details of sprinter's four-letter outbursts against drug testers, reports Adam Fresco

LINFORD CHRISTIE admitted yesterday he was aggressive and had threatened a drug tester with physical violence after he said he suspected that all athletes had taken drugs, the High Court heard.

The former 100 metres world champion was also accused of manipulating the court with emotional outbursts and of being the "Judy Garland of the 100 metres".

Christie was being cross-examined on the fifth day of his libel action against John McVicar, who claimed in a now defunct magazine that the athlete had cheated his way to the top by using banned performance enhancing drugs.

He is also suing the printers Wiltshire (Bristol) Limited and distributors Johnsons News Limited and W. H. Smith Limited.

Mr McVicar, the former armed robber, argues his article in *Spiked* magazine in September 1995 is true. The two men traded angry exchanges when Mr McVicar outlined several instances

when he said the athlete had lost his temper with drug testers during his career.

In Lanzarote in 1992 while Christie was training, Mr McVicar accused him of "going ballistic" at a random drug test. Christie said it was late at night when the testers knocked on his door and one woman "just came in and sat down. There was shouting and swearing."

He said he could not remember calling her a bitch. A report into the incident said that while independent sampling officers are advised and trained to be diplomatic and sensitive it was "the most serious abuse ever experienced and reported by an ISO".

A couple of years earlier in 1990 at Gateshead, Christie admitted he had threatened a tester with physical violence before being ushered away from the man, the jury heard.

In another incident in Gateshead in 1993 he had requested to leave a doping control room so he could "warm down" after a race to



Christie was accused of "going ballistic"

avoid the risk of injury but was not allowed to go. It was said he again became abusive and swore at a female tester. He admitted: "I called her a shit several times. I think she is a shit because she would not allow me to warm down."

Mr McVicar accused him of turning on the woman over "a very minor thing", but Christie replied: "What is minor to you is major to me. As an athlete it's my trade and is very, very serious."

"You are belittling my trade and saying it's minor. If I don't warm down I am open to injury which may well put me out for the rest of the season or longer."

Talking of his outbursts, Christie explained: "I talk with

my hands. If I do it can be seen as a sign of aggression. I am an aggressive athlete by trade. You have to be to run the 100 metres. I am open to outbursts."

"All sports people are aggressive and I just happen to voice my opinions on things I feel strongly about. I am a highly-strung athlete but I have never failed, regardless of the situation, to give a sample."

He told the jury that "verbally sometimes I do abuse testers but physically — no." He said it was not his problem if people found his body language frightening.

During cross-examination Mr McVicar said Christie's outbursts in the dock last week were false and only conducted to sway the jury. He said that Christie was an experienced litigant. "I was accusing you of staging an emotional performance — an act. Just as you try to manipulate testers with your aggression, you manipulated the jury with your tears."

He went on: "This is the Judy Garland of the 100 metres. It was a false and dishonest emotion. You were manipulating the court the same way you manipulated the testers."

The case, which is expected to last three weeks, continues.



The figure of St Sebastian, regarded as one of Vittoria's finest creations

Sculptor's vanished icon goes on sale

By DALIA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A BRONZE masterpiece by Alessandro Vittoria, the 16th-century Venetian sculptor, has been found in a private French collection and is expected to fetch £800,000 in London next month.

The figure of St Sebastian, which the artist regarded as one of his finest creations, was known from extensive documentary evidence. He made two in bronze, in 1566 and 1575, according to foundry casting receipts.

The rediscovered work, just over 21 ins high, will be sold on July 7 by Christie's. Its specialist, Donald Johnston, said that the sculpture came to light after a death in the owner's family prompted a valuation. "It had been kicking around and the heirs had no idea what it was. They assumed it was a late copy of the artist's work. They were absolutely astounded."

He said that the image was so famous — numerous copies were cast from it — that people assumed this could not be the original. "It is a real icon. To have this arrive on my desk was astounding." He could not recall when a Vittoria had last appeared on the market: that it was signed and so well documented made it all the more extraordinary.

Fisherman tells of Rolex man's body held in net

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A DEVON fisherman told a court yesterday that it had crossed his mind to throw a man's body back into the sea after it got caught in his nets.

John Copik and his son had spent ten hours trawling the seabed off Brixham without success when they hauled up a catch of sea bass. Mr Copik told Exeter Crown Court: "We had a big bag of fish but unfortunately we also had a body on top of the fish. I said to my son we had one of two things we could do. We could put it back or bring it in, in which case he would lose his day's pay. He said 'You're right, Dad, we have to bring him in'."

The dead man's pockets were turned inside out as though they had been emptied. The body was that of Ronald Platt, whom Albert Walker denies murdering.

The prosecution claims that Mr Walker, 52, killed Mr Platt after using his identity. Mr Walker, a fugitive financial adviser from Canada, had taken refuge in Britain under false identities, befriended Platt and paid for him to emigrate to Canada. The prosecution claim that he killed Mr Platt when he returned to Britain and threatened to become an embarrassment.

The court was told yesterday that a vital piece of evidence also hauled up in Mr Copik's net nearly went at a car boot sale. It was the

anchor that Mr Walker is alleged to have used to weigh down Mr Platt's body after he had knocked him unconscious on board his yacht.

Mr Copik said he had not associated the anchor with the body as it was in a different part of the net. He gave it to another fisherman, who said he could use it and in turn stored it for a car boot sale. But no one bought it, and eventually the police realised its significance and traced it.

The second vital clue was the Rolex watch on Platt's wrist. It had stopped at 11.35 on the 22nd, two days after he was allegedly murdered.

The coroner's officer, John Little, said that he had traced the identity of the owner through records held by Rolex. Henry Hudson, of Rolex in the UK, said that the automatic movement of Mr Platt's Perpetual Oyster Date Chronometer would have run for 40 to 45 hours when fully wound.

Mr Walker's daughter Sheena, told the court that Mr Platt had been depressed after his return. She agreed with Richard Ferguson, QC, for the defence, that she had initially told police she believed he had committed suicide. She said that he could not swim and hated water. She said: "I never heard any suggestion of Mr Platt going sailing with my father. He did not like getting into boats." The trial continues.



Claire Hart

Body of Claire, 13, is found

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE body of Claire Hart, the 13-year-old who vanished from a Cheshire village on her way to school, has been found in a river near the spot where she was last seen.

Police last night confirmed the identity of the body after forensic officers had carried out tests at a bank of the River Dane near Congleton.

Soldiers had been helping the search for Claire, who went missing last Thursday as she walked from her home in Eaton to her school. Until yesterday the only trace of her was a black Marks & Spencer coat.

On Monday Craig Aaron Smith, 19, of no fixed address, was charged before Macclesfield magistrates with Claire's abduction and remained in custody until tomorrow.

Foster father denies Billie-Jo 'flirting'

By JOANNA BALE

THE foster father of Billie-Jo Jenkins, the murdered schoolgirl, gave her a kiss and a cuddle minutes before bludgeoning her to death with a heavy metal tent peg, a court was told yesterday.

Ston Jenkins said that Billie-Jo, 13, had asked him for reassurance after he had found her "slapping on paint" and "making a mess" as she attempted to paint the patio doors at the family home in Hastings, East Sussex.

Mr Jenkins said: "Billie liked to be reassured and she said to me 'Am I doing it properly?'. I wanted to reassure her that she was, even though she wasn't... I went up to her, cuddled her and I think I might have given her a kiss on her cheek."

The prosecution claims that minutes later he lost his temper and beat her around the head with a heavy metal tent peg which had been lying on a nearby coal bunker. The peg was one of a set of four holding a children's swing in the ground in the back garden,

but had been removed and stored in a utility room. It had been put on the bunker earlier by his natural daughter, Annie, who had been cleaning out the utility room.

Mr Jenkins, 40, said that he had never seen the peg before and was unaware that it had been removed from the ground when the swing was replaced with another.

Under cross-examination at Lewes Crown Court, he told Camden Pratt, QC: "I didn't know our swing was replaced. You are the first person to tell me that."

Mr Pratt later suggested to Mr Jenkins that he was lying when he told the court that he did not remember how he got paint on the left sleeve of his fleece jacket.

Producing notes Mr Jenkins had made before his interview with the police, which were later seized by detectives, Mr Pratt said that Mr Jenkins had made a specific reference to the incident, writing: "Billie laughs as SJ [Ston Jenkins] laughs at his cuff."

Mr Jenkins said that he did not know how he got paint on his jacket.

Mr Pratt: "Why did you write down 'Billie Jo laughs as Ston Jenkins gets paint on his cuff'?"

Mr Jenkins: "I was being pushed by the police to provide as much detail as possible."

Earlier Mr Jenkins denied suggestions that his foster daughter was trying to "flirt or tease" with him when she climbed on to his shoulders as he crouched down to show her how to paint the French windows.

Mr Pratt: "She wasn't flirting or teasing?"

Mr Jenkins: "Not at all. All my children climb on me."

The court was then told that Mr Jenkins had said in his statement to police that Billie-Jo had been trying "to tease" him by putting her legs over his shoulders.

Mr Jenkins denies murdering his foster daughter in February last year. The trial continues.

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- (d) When the cows come home?
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Presidential decree condemns Chirac's wife to silence

There must be quiet in the Elysée Palace living room when football is on television, writes Adam Sage



Chirac: the President is passionate about football

PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S wife disclosed yesterday that she is forced to dine in front of the television in monastic silence as her husband watches the World Cup.

France's long-suffering First Lady told *Le Parisien* that football had come to dominate life at the Elysée Palace in Paris. The President insists on seeing as many matches as he can and forbids his wife from talking until the final whistle.

Bernadette Chirac — whose aristocratic family had barely heard of football before she met the armchair sports fan — has to swallow her own feelings about the game and sit meekly by the

President's side. After the Euro 96 championships in England, she told the French journalist Catherine Nay: "I must say I have had my dose of football."

This month, with France hosting the 64-match tournament, home life is even more trying for Mme Chirac. "Generally, at mealtimes at the moment, it's football, football, football," she told *Le Parisien*. "On Sunday, for example, we ate together watching the game between Iran and the United States."

In the interview with Nay, she had said that her husband, who was "passionate about football", imposed absolute silence during televised games, with "no one

allowed to say a word". Little appears to have changed at the Elysée in the past two years. Mme Chirac said yesterday that you could hear a pin drop when the President was watching a match.

Accepting the situation with a stoicism forged by 42 years of married life, she told the newspaper that she was "very proud" of how the French team has played.

Mme Chirac, 65, did not seem worried that she was forbidden to talk. She is, in any case, adept in the diplomatic art of marital communication, and once observed: "I have to choose my moment if I want to tell him something. The best time is in the

morning in the bathroom when he has finished shaving."

Last year, she said that she was happy to play a traditional wifely role, letting the "husband stand in front. It is he who talks and he who decides."

The role, however, is not always easy. "The President is not a specialist in conjugal congratulations," Mme Chirac once told an interviewer. "When things are going well, he doesn't say anything. When they are not, he underlines it."

Mme Chirac will enjoy a little respite from her husband's football fanaticism when he undertakes a week-long trip to southern Africa from tomorrow. "He

won't oblige her to watch the games in his absence although he might ask her to record them," a spokesman said yesterday.

And next month will be more enjoyable as the Tour de France bicycle race sweeps through the village where she is a local councillor in rural Corrèze, central France. "That event is magic," she said yesterday. "It requires tenacity, strength and courage."

In the meantime, Mme Chirac herself will no doubt be calling upon these qualities after her husband's return from Africa next week.



Mme Chirac mealtimes are spent in front of World Cup

Leading article, page 21

German fans are charged as battle looms in Lens

STRICT measures against football hooligans were being considered by Germany yesterday amid reports that the country's street fighters were regrouping for a battle with English fans later this week.

The appeals to get tough came as two Germans, Marcus Warnecke, 27, from Hanover, and Karl-Heinz Elschner, were charged with the attempted murder of a French gendarme. Daniel Nivel, 43, was last night said to be in a "deep coma" at a hospital in Lille.

The German police trade union called for protective detention of all known troublemakers until the World Cup is over. Edzard Schmidt-Jortzig, the Justice Minister, said it was time to make use of speeded up hearings and sentencing against anyone sent back by the French police, otherwise there was little to stop them returning to the fray. Klaus Kinkel, the For-

Government calls for long jail terms to deter racist attacks, writes Roger Boyes

Justice Minister, said: "This cancer has to be cut out." He called for long jail sentences for hooligans.

The French sports paper *L'Equipe* suggests that German supporters are now lying low in Northern France waiting for the England-Colombia match in Lens on Friday. That is expected to be the next showdown, rather than the German-Iran game on Thursday. However, German sources say that most hooligans from Sunday's street battles have returned to jobs at home and will travel to Lens on Thursday evening.

A switch of focus to England has been prompted by two factors. First, a Germany-England encounter on the football field has become less likely because of England's defeat by Romania. Second, the German hooligans' scent blood. Rumours that the German Football Association was planning out of remorse to withdraw from the Cup — denied yesterday — have encouraged hooligans to believe they can establish their wrecking power over football.

A withdrawal would also put pay to Germany's hopes of staging the World Cup in 2006. Berti Vogts, Germany's coach, was furious yesterday that such a possibility could even be contemplated. "Words fail me," he said. "I will have something to say about this when all the games are over."

German sociologists have been unable to come up with a convincing profile of the classic German hooligan. But one of the two men accused of attempting to murder M Nivel with an uprooted street sign serves as a model of what is confronting the security authorities.

Herr Warnecke is co-owner and manager of a tattoo and bodypiercing shop in a relatively wealthy district of Hanover. Known as "Mace" to his friends, he usually wears t-shirts marked "Pitbull" or "Lonsdale". The Lonsdale logo is favoured by far Right sympathisers because it contains the four letters NSDA, which could be made to stand for National Socialist German Workers.

Herr Warnecke is a member of a motorbiking fraternity known as Bones. Last year alone he was investigated by the police on charges of grievous bodily harm, resisting the police and breaking the gun laws, but he did not receive any jail sentences. He is rated as a Category C hooligan.

Last Saturday evening he and 46 hooligans associated with the third division club



Markus Warnecke climbing out of a police van yesterday after his arrest

Hanover 96 set out for France. On the way they wrecked the bus; windows were shattered, the kitchen section was destroyed, seats were ripped open and beer soaked into the carpeting.

Joerg Draht, 28, a colleague of Herr Warnecke who was on the same bus, said: "Yes of course we're hooligans. We were out for a fight." Herr Draht, who runs a football fan clothing shop, denies having taken part in the attack on the French policeman. None of the passengers had a ticket. They were going to France, he said, for the "feeling" of being close to the World Cup — and to television cameras. Only half of the passengers returned. The rest are still in detention.

In Lens the Hanoverians found that extremists from Hamburg had already planned the confrontation with the police. The Hamburg

contingent had used neo-Nazi websites on the Internet to plan their violence — even street maps of Lens had been sent to supporters in advance.

Herr Warnecke's colleagues came to fight foreigners: they even brought mouthguards to ensure that they would not report back to work with missing teeth. The Hamburg contingent came to make the headlines. In designer jeans and sunglasses, with no alcohol on their breath, they were not spotted on the border.

The German police say they carried out 200 border checks on that day — despite the theoretically border-free traffic between France and Germany — and failed to come across a single suspicious character.

The rise of the older, harder "weekend hooligan" has been noted for some time by sociologists, but not by the police.

Gunter Pilz, a sports sociologist at the University of Hanover, said Lens saw the interplay of three distinct groups: German fans irritated by the black market ticket touts, hooligans out for trouble and a smaller group of neo-Nazis determined to manipulate the mood.

But Dr Pilz said their social origin is complex. "You get 13 to 18-year-olds who are from socially disadvantaged homes and who are vulnerable to far Right slogans which they parrot. Then you get people in their mid-20s, even older, sometimes they are doctors, lawyers, engineers who get a thrill out of beating up people. This is their version of bungee jumping." They were all susceptible to far Right ideology but they were motivated by "the pleasure of beating".

World Cup, pages 40-43, 48

Stabbing of English fan unprovoked, say police

BY ADRIAN LEE IN TOULOUSE AND STEPHEN FARRELL

AN ENGLISH football supporter is seriously ill in hospital after being stabbed in the stomach in a Toulouse suburb after England's game against Romania.

Steven Clarke, 37, a divorcee from Stourbridge, West Midlands, was in intensive care after the apparently unprovoked attack by locals on Monday night. His condition is not thought to be life-threatening.

Alain Dreuilhe, the Toulouse police chief, said the victim and two friends were walking through a suburb in a dangerous area in the south of the city when a car stopped. The attacker climbed out and stabbed Mr Clarke, who was wearing something that identified him as an England fan. "There seems to have been no reason for the attack," he said.

Martine Tuckley, 24, Mr Clarke's niece, said that her boyfriend, Gary Lennon, and her uncle had planned to drive around for a week watching England's matches. She said: "They were due back on Saturday. Neither of them are troublemakers, that's just not what they are like."

The incident marred an otherwise successful security operation in which only eight of the 25,000 England supporters were arrested, mainly for drunkenness, in contrast to the scores seized by police during England's earlier match in Marseille.

M Dreuilhe was critical of policing in Marseille, blaming officers for not responding fast enough to trouble. The Toulouse authorities believe their success was because of precautionary measures, including postponing a music festival that would have brought 150,000 people on to the streets at the same time as the England fans, closing bars at 11pm and the absence of giant screens for ticketless fans, which are regarded by British experts as potential focuses for trouble.

The city's police will now be advising their colleagues in

Lens, where England play on Friday. André Delelis, Mayor of Lens, yesterday called for a 30-mile alcohol exclusion zone around the ground tomorrow and Friday.

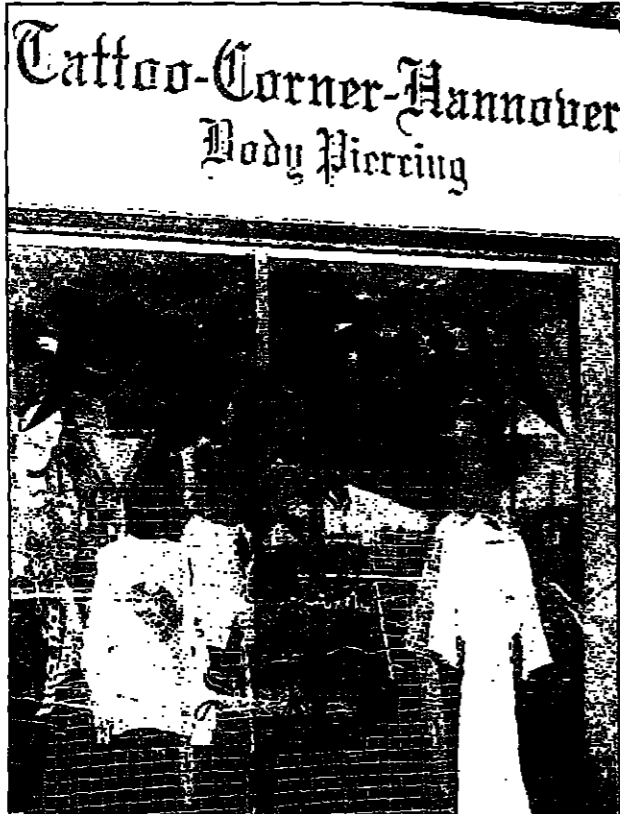
Meanwhile a court in Toulouse jailed Maurice Woodward, 25, a builder, from Rotherham, South Yorkshire, for four months for throwing bottles, stones and a tear gas canister at police in Marseilles last week. He was also banned from France for two years.

Woodward, 25, had already left Marseilles and arrived in Toulouse but was spotted by British surveillance officers who identified him from video footage and pointed him out to their French counterparts when he was sitting outside a bar on Sunday. He was arrested and brought before the court yesterday in handcuffs and chained to the dock.

Michel Foque, the prosecutor, said: "I ask for exemplary severity because it is the English... who started the violence in this World Cup, or at least it is their hooligans, doubtlessly carried away with extremist ideologies and who have, for the past 24 years, spread a reign of terror and death around the stadiums of Europe."

Woodward said that he had been caught up in the violence by accident as he was drinking with friends at a bar. "A tear gas canister landed at my feet and I threw it away to get rid of it. It was hurting my eyes," he told the court.

Police in Majorca had to stop 250 drunken British football fans who threatened to rampage through a tourist resort after England's defeat. One British fan was arrested on public disorder charges and was accused of destroying property.



Warnecke's tattoo shop. He is a known hooligan

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Divorce may offer children of warring parents best future

DIVORCE may do children less harm than parents staying together for the sake of the family, a report has claimed.

It is not divorce itself so much as the bitterness of fiercely fought relationship breakdowns that harm children, concludes the study by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

The report, based on an analysis of more than 200 British research studies on the impact of divorce on children, concedes that the offspring of divorced parents are twice as likely to experience psychological, economic and social problems in adolescence and adulthood. But it finds that "poor outcomes [for children] are far from inevitable".

Jan Pryor of the University of Auckland in New Zealand who co-wrote the study, said that although families should be encouraged to stay together where possible, this was not always the best solution. "In Western countries separation and divorce is here to stay. It is endemic. It is foolish to put too much energy to try to stop people separating. The energy is better spent looking seriously and systematically at what can be done to help and support [divorcing] families," she said. "Rather than focus on a couple's marital status, support services needed to concentrate more on helping adults become better parents."

"To focus on marriage is to focus on the legal aspect. To focus on parenting is something that homes in on every single parent," she said.

The report claims that the absence of one or other parent figure from a

Report says staying married for sake of the family can cause greater harm, writes

Alexandra Freen

household is not the most influential feature of separation on children's development. Repeated and bitter fighting between parents in front of their children before a divorce and the family's financial situation can often be far more influential.

The report accepts that the children of divorced parents are twice as likely to suffer medium and long-term problems, such as withdrawn behaviour, aggression, health problems, poor academic achievement, depression, substance abuse, abuse in adolescence and early sexual activity resulting in teenage pregnancy. However, it also attributes most of these to domestic conflict and poverty before and after divorce.

Bryan Rodgers, of the Australian National University in Canberra and co-author of the report, said that given the proper support from the health and social services, many of these problems could be avoided, allowing children to settle into a pattern of healthy development once the immediate distress caused by divorce had faded.

"It is especially important that

parents appreciate the possible damage from overt conflict and violence and from the involvement of children in their disputes. If they are able to minimise such behaviour, then they will improve their children's chances for better adjustment," he said.

Mr Rodgers suggested that one way to help children cope with divorce was to communicate honestly and clearly with them throughout the divorce process. He also recommended the drawing up of "parenting plans", which could be lodged with the court and which provided details of how each parent could best support their children.

The report calls for better professional support before, during and after divorce, available to both parents and children. Anything that can minimise parental psychological distress at the time of divorce will also help children become better adjusted.

Maeve Sherlock, of the National Council for One Parent Families, welcomed the study. "The findings explode the myth that children inevitably fare worse because they live in a one-parent family. An understanding that poverty and parental conflict before separation can have long-term negative effects on children should inform the development of constructive support for all families," she said.

Sarah Bowler, chief executive of the marriage guidance charity Relate, agreed that it was important to make the divorce process less adversarial. "Where one parent is pitted against the other, it can harm children and can cause children to do less well in school."



Michael Hobbs yesterday: he ran bleeding from school rifle range to sanatorium

Boy shot in physics test 'surprised to be alive'

A SCHOOLBOY said yesterday that he escaped death by half an inch when he was shot in the back in a physics experiment that went wrong.

Michael Hobbs, 16, and three friends at Bryanston School in Blandford, Dorset, were trying to calculate the speed of a bullet when the gun went off. Surgeons have decided it would be too risky to remove the bullet from his chest and Michael may spend the rest of his life with it lodged next to his heart.

He said: "I knew instantly I had been hit and I was just surprised I was still alive. Now there is a constant ache and sometimes I think I can feel the bullet inside me, but it's not too bad."

Michael was in the school firing range on Wednesday when the .22 rifle went off. He fell with blood pouring from the wound near his left shoulder blade, but managed to reach the sanatorium 400 yards away, where he collapsed. Staff gave him oxygen until he was taken to hospital.

"It just about missed my heart but if it had been about a centimetre lower it would have gone through it and I wouldn't be here today. They couldn't give me pain killers in the ambulance because they didn't know whether they would have to operate later."

"The whole of my left lung collapsed and filled with blood and I was breathing with very short breaths. I was unlucky to be hit but also in a way I was a bit lucky that it didn't do more damage."

Michael, of Burton, near Dorchester, added: "It was just one of those things - a complete accident. I don't blame anyone for what happened."

More 'fast abortion' clinics

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A CHARITY is to increase the number of clinics carrying out "lunchtime abortions" following widespread demand.

The scheme was launched by Marie Stopes International a year ago since when 7,000 women have used it. Tim Black, chief executive of the charity, said yesterday that the response had vindicated the decision to provide an abortion service in this way.

Women say they used the service because of its speed and convenience. The abortions are performed under local anaesthetic by qualified practitioners using a hand-held aspirator, which is considered one of the safest methods. They can be carried out up to and including the 12th week of pregnancy and takes less than five minutes.

The charity has clinics in London, Manchester and Leeds and expects to have two more operating by the end of the year. Others could follow if demand continues to rise.

Night of pleasure turned into terror

By PAUL WILKINSON

A BANK manager who thought he was in for a night of sex with a £300-a-time teenage escort girl was instead put through a five-hour kidnap ordeal, a court was told.

The 45-year-old married father of two, identified in court as Mr X, arranged the date with the girl he had already met once through a newspaper advertisement that described her as a nubile 17-year-old blonde. But when he arrived at their rendezvous in York, he was seized at knifepoint by two men and bundled into his car boot.

York Crown Court was told that he was then driven on a round trip of almost 100 miles so that the girl's two friends could withdraw £2,000 using his cash cards.

Martin Rudland, prosecuting, said: "The pretty young girl was used as bait to lure the bank manager to a night of terror instead of a meal and sex." He said that the girl, Joanne Crossman, now 18, of York, arranged to meet the

bank manager one day last February. But the call was overheard by her friends Kevin Castle and Jason Smith, who determined to kidnap and rob him.

Castle, 22, from Scarborough, and Smith, 21, from York, climbed into the bank manager's car, threatened him with a knife and punched him in the face. After forcing him to hand over his wallet, they pushed him into the boot of the car.

Mr Rudland said the terrified bank manager was eventually driven back to York and abandoned, still locked in the boot. After five minutes he broke free and stopped a police car to raise the alarm. When Castle and Smith were arrested they said they had spent all the money.

Both admitted robbery and false imprisonment. Castle was jailed for seven years and Smith for five years.

Crossman, who admitted the same charges, will be sentenced next Wednesday.

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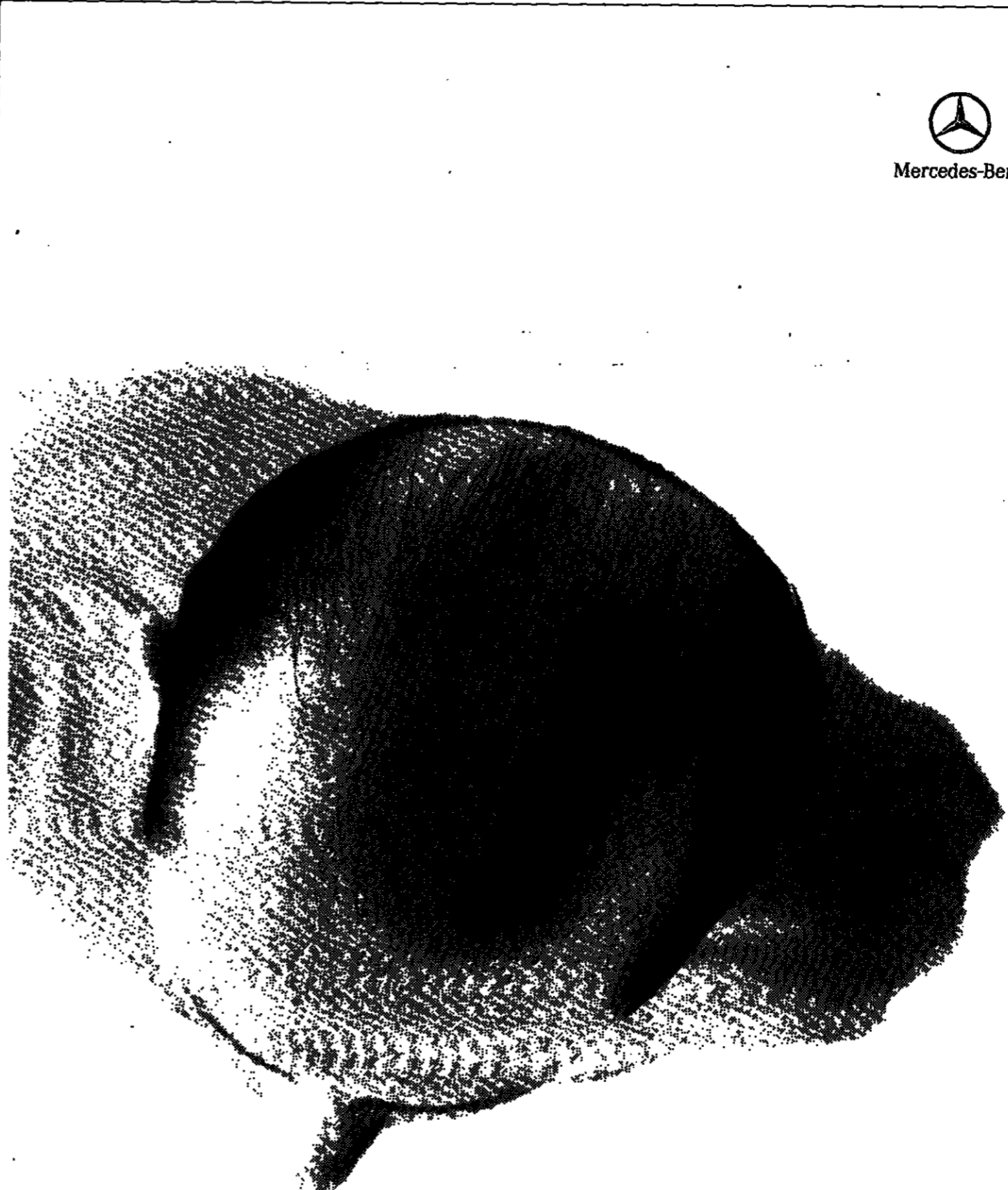
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Action zones challenge the old school

Blunkett promises first 500 schools will never return to unacceptably low standards, says John O'Leary

MINISTERS threw down the gauntlet to the education establishment yesterday with a warning that the first 25 education action zones would challenge the "vested interests" which had let down children in areas of low performance.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, said that the 500 schools involved in the three-year experiment would never return to the system that tolerated unacceptably low standards. Business partnerships would produce new structures free from educational and political dogma.

Big business is heavily involved in the first dozen zones, which will begin operating in September. Another 13 zones will be introduced in January. Mr Blunkett said that more companies were waiting for further rounds of bidding, when he hoped that groups of parents would put forward their own proposals.

Although local education authorities will play a leading role in all the initial programmes, some will be chaired by leading business representatives. All have raised private sponsorship of at least £250,000 in cash or in kind to add to £750,000 a year from the Government.

Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, said the zones would be "test-beds" for the school system of the next century. Successful innovations would be introduced nationally with the minimum of delay.

Mr Byers said: "Let there be no doubt that action zones represent a fundamental challenge to the education status quo. They are a real threat to those vested interests which have for too long held back the school system. There will be critics from the Left and Right who will simply stand and oppose. These people are clinging to the comfort blanket of no change."

Each zone, grouping about 20 schools, will be run by a partnership of schools, parents, business and local education authorities. They will run for up to five years and work to tough targets for improvement in achievement.

The Tories ridiculed the Government's radical claims for today's announcement. David Willets, Shadow Education Secretary, said that in reality zones would be "left in the hands of the very local education authorities that even the Department for Education believes have failed".

Of the 60 bids which produced today's 25 zones, he claimed that 57 were led by LEAs and the rest had substantial LEA involvement.

"This is yet another example of the Government talking tough rhetoric but the reality is, as usual, a lot different. An opportunity to bring extra freedom and diversity to our education system has been missed."

Critics among teaching unions were largely reassured by today's announcement, however. Doug McAvo, general secretary of the biggest teaching union, the National Union of Teachers, said assurances had been honoured that no companies would be able to make a profit out of state education. One zone, in Basildon, Essex, will be led by a grant-maintained school that was among the first to opt out of local authority control. Chalvedon School and neighbouring Barsbale School, which is also a grant-maintained, will now work with the authority and Research Machines, a leading provider of computers to education.

Alan Roach, Chalvedon's head teacher, said the zone would seek to alter the prevailing attitude towards education in the area, which has the highest crime rate in the county. One of the zone's aims will be to reduce youth crime by more than the police target.

Six of the 30 schools involved in the action zones have failed inspections or been found to have serious weaknesses. The new programme will draw up individual learning plans for every child and try to involve parents in their children's education from soon after birth.



Pupils at work at Chalvedon School, Essex, which is in the Basildon action zone. It was one of the first to opt out of local authority control

Girls liked strangling game, says teacher

By a Correspondent

A TEACHER at a girls' school who was dismissed after complaints from parents criticised the headmistress of its junior section yesterday. Clare Head, 54, said: "She was dismissive and unhelpful. She always thought the worst without hearing me out."

Mrs Head claims she was unfairly dismissed last year from St David's School at Ashford, West London. She told an industrial tribunal at Croydon, South London, that the junior school head, Pauline Green, "overreacted to parental complaint".

The tribunal has been told that Mrs Head overworked pupils, forced them to eat their vegetables, let a pupil wet herself and put her hands around girls' necks in mock strangulation.

Mrs Head said: "A parent complained that her child had been too frightened to go to the toilet and had wet herself. In another teacher's lesson, she had had a mishap — the girl had had a bladder infection. I was not informed by Mrs Green. Even the child had not told me."

She said of the mock strangulations: "It was more like tickling, really. The children loved it and used to queue up for it at breaktime. I stopped doing it [after being warned] and never repeated it."

The hearing continues.

THE ACTION ZONES

SALFORD AND TRAFFORD

18 schools with new curriculum for pupils over 14, cyber-café and zone-wide computer "web". Star partners: Barclays Bank, Colgate Palmolive, John Laing Construction, Kellogg's.

NORTH SOMERSET

23 schools in Weston-super-Mare with extended school day and holiday schemes, networked computer link for all schools, with laptops for learning at home. Star partners include: McDonald's, Nord Anglia PLC, NSPCC.

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE

17 schools in Grimsby planning "Open School" cable television programmes and a computer in every child's home. Star partners: UKENSA computer consortium, World Challenge Expeditions.

NEWHAM

19 schools in East End of London offering Saturday schools and new curriculum from the age of 14. Star partners: Arthur Andersen, BT, Prince's Trust, Tate and Lyle.

NEWCASTLE

19 schools in West End of the city planning one-stop for health and family support in schools, extended school day and work-related curriculum from 14. Star partners: Newcastle United FC, Northumbria and Newcastle universities and The Pacific Institute.

HEREFORDSHIRE

22 schools in and around Hereford with sports college, extended school day and more work-related learning from 14. Star partners: BT, Tesco, Prince's Trust.

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN

22 schools in south Blackburn and Darwen planning extended school day and residential courses for 10 to 14-year-olds. Star partners: Blackburn Rovers FC, Church of England, Communicare Health Trust, Lancashire Constabulary.

CROYDON

9 schools on New Addington estate offering computer-based learning, longer school hours, with breakfast and after-school clubs and summer school, possible four- or five-term year. Star partners: Edexcel exam board, John Ruskin College.

BARNESLEY

21 schools planning smartcard system to track pupils' progress, interactive homework, link between schools and welfare services. Star partners: BT, Nord Anglia, Bull Information Systems.

LAMBETH

27 schools in South London with breakfast and after-school clubs, visits and residential schemes for all pupils, family literacy scheme, of Edinburgh or Youth Award schemes. Star partners: IBM, ICL, Metropolitan Police, National Theatre, Royal Festival Hall.

LEICESTER

23 schools planning support teams for special needs pupils and longer school hours. Star partners: Leicester City FC, Philharmonia Orchestra, Prince's Trust.

MIDDLESBROUGH

18 schools offering focus on work skills, extended school day, homework clubs, summer schools and business mentors. Star partners: Middlesbrough FC, Teesside University, Diocese of Middlesbrough, Future Steps Ltd.

From January

WIGAN

30 schools in West Leigh area with Zone Technology Network including video conferencing, family advice centres in schools; new curriculum from age 14. Star

partners: Greater Manchester Police, Lancashire Publications; North West Water; Pittsburgh Gas.

SOUTHWARK

13 schools in South London extending school day and year, providing laptops for teachers and family literacy network. Star partners: Financial Times; Price Waterhouse, South Bank University, Capstan Ltd.

SOUTH TYNESIDE

13 schools planning family literacy project, community libraries in schools, summer literacy and numeracy schools, computer access for students and parents. Star partners: Rolls-Royce, Transmission and Distribution Ltd, Rih and Haas UK, Tyne Dock Engineering Ltd.

SHEFFIELD

21 schools offering family and child counselling to prevent "disaffection", motivational arts programme. Star partners: BT, Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam universities.

PLYMOUTH

20 schools with parenting classes, homework clubs, holiday schemes and breakfast clubs, early excellence centres for pre-school children and new curriculum from 14. Star partners: British Aerospace, BT, Brittany Ferries.

NOTTINGHAM

Ten schools with computer-based learning system, after-school clubs, homework centres, weekend and holiday study centres; anti-truancy networks with police. Star partners: Nottingham and Trent Universities and local employers.

NORFOLK

Ten schools in Thetford planning self-assessment and target-setting with business mentors, incentives to cut truancy, targeted pupils. Star partners: Norfolk and Waveney TEC, local businesses.

KINGSTON UPON HULL

18 schools involving engineers in curriculum planning, exchange and video-conference links to Rotterdam, extended school day and family learning centres. Star partners: British Aerospace, Humberside Police, Kingston Communications.

HALIFAX

29 schools operating local learning network, centres of excellence in arts and business studies, parenting classes, new curriculum from 14 to 19. Star partners: Design Dimension, Halifax plc.

BRIGHTON

12 schools with IT access outside school hours, all-day nursery provision, more lessons in arts and sports, new school day, business mentors working with head teachers. Star partners: American Express, Business in the Community, Gatwick Airport, KPMG, University of Brighton.

BASILDON

30 schools in planning pre-school places for every child, individual pupil action plans, video conferencing and vocational training for pupils. Star partner: Research Machines.

BIRMINGHAM, ASTON AND NECHells

21 schools in Aston and Nechells planning 50 per cent increase in school hours, through homework clubs, holiday clubs, pupil work-shops, and parent with pupil workshops. Star partners: Barnardo's, University of the Third Age.

BIRMINGHAM, KITTS GREEN/SHARD END

15 schools in Kitts Green and Shard End with individual literacy support, family education literacy schools, more education welfare officers, sporting heroes and business professionals to visit schools. Star partners: Cadbury, British Aluminium Plate, National Exhibition Centre, BSA Tools.

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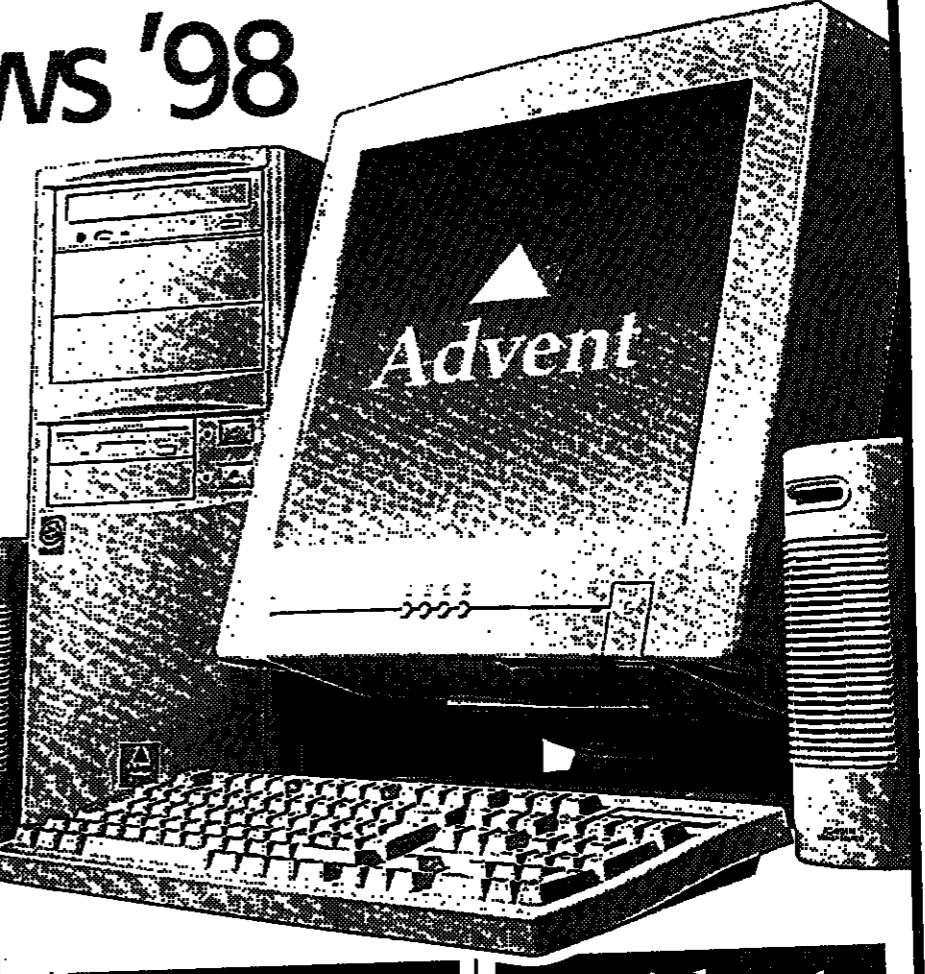
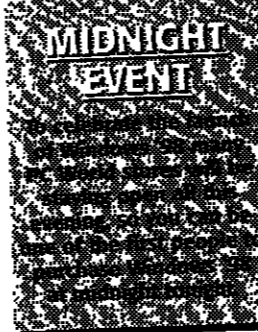
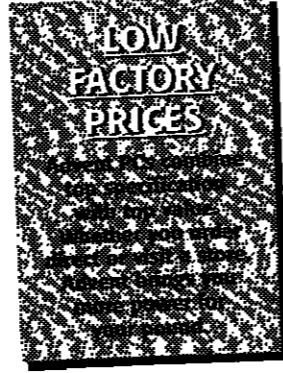
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Council censured over care home abuse



Angela Rowe: jailed last year for ill-treatment

A LOCAL authority made serious mistakes when it failed to act on allegations of abuse of mentally handicapped adults in two residential homes, an inquiry concluded yesterday.

Residents at Longcare Ltd's homes at Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, were subjected to a catalogue of abuse, deprivation, humiliation and torment. They were slapped, had their hair pulled and jugs of water thrown over them. A woman with Down's syndrome was made to eat her meals outside in the rain.

The nine-month independent inquiry into the handling of a case of sexual and physical abuse at the Longcare private homes criticised the county council for not making necessary checks. A summary of the report states: "The inspections during this period were not thorough and complaints not investigated properly. The abusive regime at Longcare should have been exposed and ended earlier."

After the findings were published, Buckinghamshire announced the resignation of its director of social services, Jean Jeffrey.

Angela Rowe, 40, a former director of Longcare, was last year jailed for two and a half years for ill-treating the homes' residents. Her husband, Gordon, alleged to be principally responsible for the cruelty, died in a fire-filled car two years ago as police were about to charge him with raping several residents.

Management of the homes had provided the Rowes with an annual income of more than £200,000. Police investigated allegations against them in 1994 after a secret report by the county

Allegations by mentally handicapped residents of assault and rape went unheeded, reports Helen Johnstone

The council was leaked to the press. The Police Complaints Authority is investigating Thames Valley Police's decision not to prosecute sooner.

The inquiry into the homes was requested by Paul Boateng, the Health Minister. It has found that claims by up to 50 residents of rape, assault and ill-treatment — sparked off by an anonymous call in December 1992 — were not investigated. The report makes 95 recommendations, most directed at the council.

It concluded that serious mistakes were made by the council's inspection unit in 1993-94 which prevented the abuses being stopped earlier. The inquiry pointed to an absence of strategic direction and visionary leadership within social services.

The council's chief executive, Ian Crookall, said yesterday: "No blame has been attributed." Announcing that the council was accepting the criticisms collectively, the chairman of social services, Richard Worrall, said: "We got it wrong. We could and should have done better."

Expressing the wish to talk to the abuse victims and their relatives, many of whom are pursuing claims for compensation, he added: "I am very, very sorry for what you went through."

The assistant director of social services, Peter Richardson, who had been charged with imple-

menting changes to the care of people with learning difficulties, was reported yesterday to be on indefinite sick leave.

The council, which has been forced to cut £4 million from the current year's social services budget, had also proposed to cut £700,000 set aside for people with learning difficulties. Mr Worrall emphasised that the inquiry's recommendations could be implemented only with the help of extra government funding. A meeting has been arranged with Mr Boateng.

Lawyers acting for the victims and their families said the report was so damning that the local authority should admit liability



Janet Ward: family says she was victim of abuse

and avoid the need for lengthy legal action.

June Raybaud, whose niece, Janet Ward, went to Stoke Poges in 1987 aged 19, welcomed the apology. "It has taken four years to get that far. Now we want to see the recommendations implemented." The family now knows that Janet, who was brain-damaged at birth, was abused at the home. "There would have been rape charges in respect of her had Gordon Rowe lived," Mrs Raybaud said. "We now know that he would film her undressing."

Miss Ward's sister, Pauline Hennessy, set up her own residential home to care for her and others, but Miss Ward died aged 28 a week before it opened.

Mrs Raybaud said: "Money cannot compensate, but it can help." However, some families had declined to join the group action for compensation. "They just cannot cope with the guilt," she said. "They feel so awful that their children were telling them something, by perhaps being unwilling to go back after a weekend at home."

The inquiry recommendations call on the Government to introduce new legislation and tougher guidelines to protect people with learning difficulties. It should be compulsory for all complaints from vulnerable people to be formally investigated.

Local authorities should also be required to establish Adult Protection Committees and the Government should help to develop agreements for inter-agency reaction to such complaints. There should also be protection for staff and residents making complaints.



Pauline Hennessy: hoped to care for sister

Gulf War 'shield' ordeal drove banker to suicide

By PAUL WILKINSON

A MERCHANT banker whose life fell to pieces after he was used as a "human shield" during the Gulf War killed himself eight years later, an inquest was told yesterday.

At one point during his four months as a captive of the Iraqis, Brian James was put in front of a firing squad that shot at him with blanks. In April, at his home in South London, he made a half-hearted attempt at suicide, inflicting minor wounds to his chest, abdomen and neck.

A few days after doctors at St George's Hospital in Tooting treated him, he returned to the Yorkshire Moors above his childhood home in Bradford and took a fatal dose of aspirin. Staff at the hospital said he had left in a confused and depressed state.

His body was found on Ilkley Moor, near Eldwick, on April 15, by a man walking with his children 200 yards off

a popular pathway. He was dressed in expensive clothes and was wearing a gold Gucci watch, but without any money or identification.

In a statement read to the Bradford inquest, his brother Martin, from North London, said that Mr James, 47, was a quiet, introverted person "but being kept hostage for four months would have been abhorrent to him, it would have had a lasting effect".

Mr James, who had been head of treasury sales for the Gulf Bank in Kuwait at the time of the 1990 Iraqi invasion, returned to work in the Middle East after the war, but late last year gave up his job to go to New York, where he lived for three months. He was not working and ran up significant credit card debts before returning to live in Dulwich, South London.

The coroner recorded a verdict of suicide.

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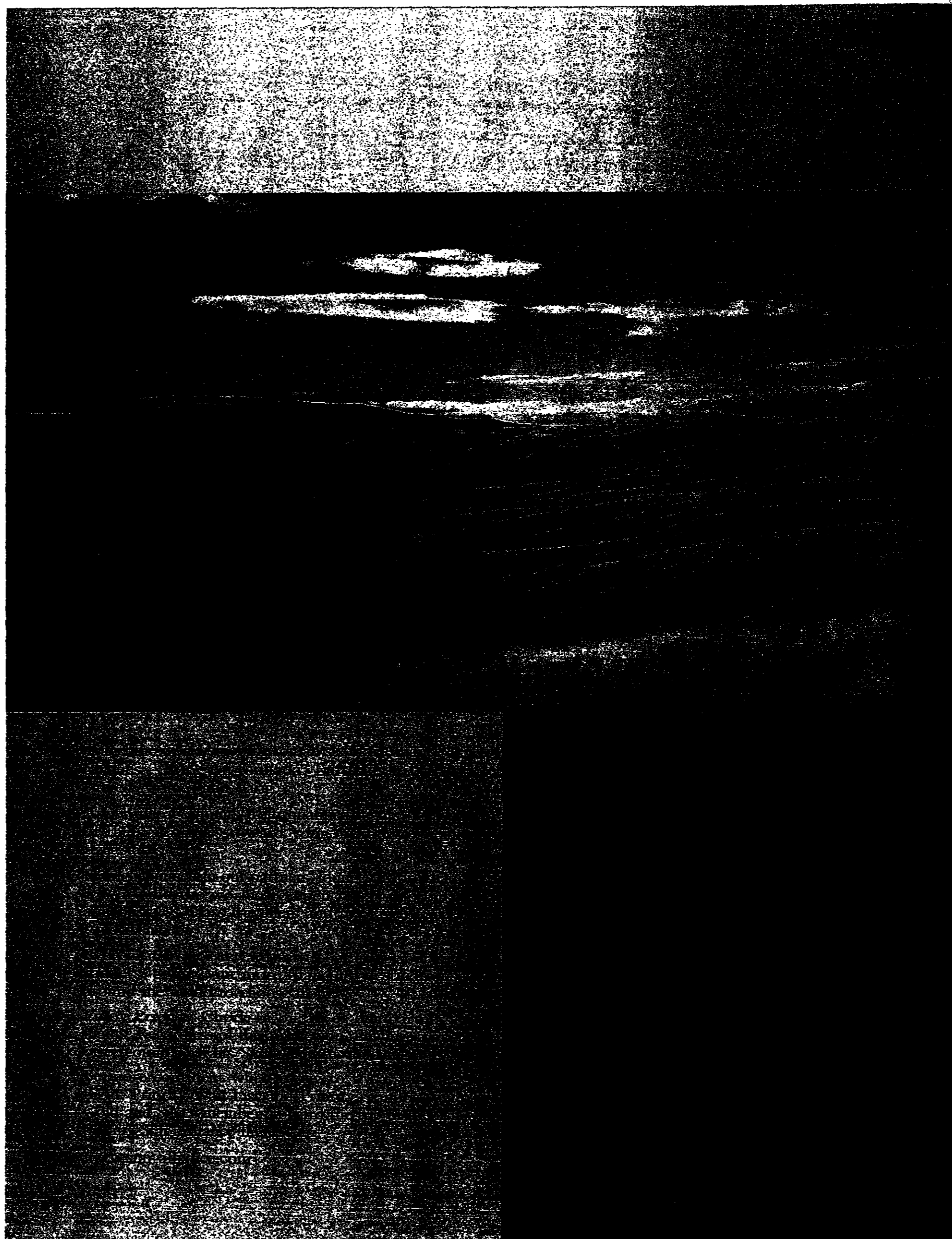
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Mensa head is forced out in clash of minds

Russell Jenkins reports on a tale of intrigue in society for high IQs

THE first woman to chair Mensa, the society for people with a high IQ, has been sacked after nine months in office amid accusations of political intrigue and backbiting.

Julie Baxter, 45, a barrister's wife from Lancashire, with an IQ of 154, had high hopes of reforming the troubled organisation when she succeeded Sir Clive Sinclair, who had been chairman for 17 years.

But she was ousted by a unanimous vote of no confidence at a lengthy board meeting. Opponents claimed she was high-handed and reluctant to subject the society to outside scrutiny.

The row centred on tactics used by a former employee during elections to the board. But it is only the latest instance of egos and inflated intelligences competing for pre-eminence in Mensa.

The society, which has about 100,000 members

around the world, including 37,000 in Britain, has found itself being accused of being exclusive, smug and socially divisive ever since it was founded over 50 years ago.

More recently Harold Gale, 54, died last February in a car crash while in a depressive state. He had recently been sacked by British Mensa as executive director after 19 years for running a private business from the office in Wolverhampton. In a note found in his home, he blamed Sir Clive for his predicament.

Sir Clive, the inventor of the ill-fated C5 electric tricycle, later stepped down as chairman of the board, provoking a power struggle among the factions in which photographs of one male Mensa official wearing women's underwear were circulated.

Mrs Baxter said at her farmhouse near Ormskirk, Lancashire, where she breeds horses, that she intended to



Julie Baxter, who was ousted by Mensa directors, with Sir Clive Sinclair, whom she succeeded as chairman

fight on and re-establish herself as chairman. She challenged the board to explain their actions in public.

"I am the victim of quite flagrant political activism. Since I was made chairman there has been a savage political struggle to take the position away from me," she said.

She claims that her problems began shortly after taking over from Sir Clive when she was responsible for making redundant David Chatten, the office general manager. She said he had circulated a document in which he had admitted clandestine lobbying to influence elections to the board in order to oust two of Sir Clive's old supporters.

Mrs Baxter insists that she brought his activities to light in the first place but other board members claimed she should have acted earlier. Her co-directors decided they wanted to investigate matters, including Mrs Baxter's role in the affair.

They sought to engage a private detective agency but Mrs Baxter held out against them, insisting that the internal procedures should be allowed to run their course.

The vote of no-confidence was triggered by Mrs Baxter's refusal to budge. She promptly issued a challenge to Noel Burger, her successor, and the four other directors to debate the issue before the members.

Mrs Baxter said: "For some time now untrue and unsubstantiated allegations have been made against me. The board has shown incompetence in its investigation of these allegations."

"The members of Mensa have the right to know what is going on in their society and I believe the directors concerned have a duty to explain the reasons for their actions."

Neil Goulder, a former board director and one of her opponents, said that Mr

Trimble stops for cuppa on last lap of marathon

By MARTIN FLETCHER
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Gary Kennedy, a primary school headmaster from Portadown, spotted David Trimble out canvassing he invited him home for tea, and the man most likely to become Northern Ireland's First Minister after tomorrow's assembly elections gratefully accepted.

It was some tea. The 53-year-old Ulster Unionist Party leader arrived at Mr Kennedy's home with four bodyguards, three election workers, a fellow candidate, a woman from the *Los Angeles Times* and a reporter and photographer from *The Times*. Mr Kennedy's wife, Margo, rose to the occasion, conjuring up plates of ham and egg sandwiches, chocolate cake, shortbread, biscuits and apple pie as her guests round the kitchen table.

Mr Trimble also has four children, but he has seen precious little of them this past year. The marathon negotiations that culminated in Good Friday's peace accord segued straight into the six-week referendum, which was immediately followed by this month-long campaign.

Half Mr Trimble's UUP MPs have deserted him. He is being opposed in his own Upper Bann constituency by Denis Watson. Grand Master of Co Armagh's substantial Orange Order. Many in Portadown's intensely sectarian loyalist estates consider him a traitor and in Lurgan — another town in his constituency — he was ambushed by a howling mob on a walk-about last month.

The tea offered Mr Trimble a momentary respite. He admitted to being ready to "flop". He was looking forward to a holiday in England next month that was "booked and paid for in January". Asked if he felt like a Prime Minister-in-waiting, he said: "No."

"It's rare to get him sitting down with something to eat. People think he runs on air," said Mark Neale, his fellow UUP candidate. When Mr Trimble departed, the Kennedys sang his praises: "We feel he is leading us into this new promised land. He gives us hope for our children."

The man who would prevent Mr Trimble's victory admitted to no fatigue. "I feel I have far more strength in the country than ever," said Ian Paisley, and set off again in his white campaign van. "Your best guarantee is the DUP," the loudspeakers blared across the fields outside Kells in North Antrim.

Joyriders kill man in crash

A driver was killed yesterday when a gang of teenage car thieves crashed a stolen Vauxhall Calibra into his car at 100mph on the A1 in North London. A police car had spotted the Calibra and was about 500 metres behind when it hit the Renault Five.

The driver, in his 20s, was thrown from the car by the force of the crash and hit the road before ending up under a parked lorry. The Calibra, stolen the night before, was abandoned near a roundabout. Two boys and a girl, all 16, none of whom were injured, were arrested. A fourth suspect was being sought.

Son charged

A man was charged with the murder of his father, a retired Royal Navy commander, who died of stab wounds at his Edinburgh flat on Sunday night. Kenneth McCaskill, 26, was remanded in custody by Edinburgh Sheriff Court accused of killing Simon McCaskill, 57.

Boy, 9, 'raped'

A 12-year-old boy has been charged with raping a nine-year-old boy in Saltford, Somerset. The youth, released on police bail to appear before Bath Youth Court on July 23, also faces a charge of a serious sexual assault and indecent assault.

Oil spill trial

Milford Haven Port Authority and its harbourmaster, Captain Mark Andrews, are to face trial in connection with the *Sea Empress* oil spill in 1996, the Environment Agency said. They will be tried on pollution charges at Cardiff Crown Court in January.

Inmate killed

An inmate at Stoke Heath young offender institution, near Market Drayton in Shropshire, was questioned by police after a fellow prisoner, Alan Averill, was stabbed to death with a large knife during a cookery lesson on his 18th birthday.

Arrest damages

Patrice Pade, arrested in connection with the rape and murder of the British schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson in Brittany in 1996, was awarded damages of 10,000 francs (about £1,000) for false imprisonment by France's National Indemnity Commission.

£2.75m psalter

The 13th-century Burden Psalter, believed to have been made for a knight of the Crusades, was sold at Sotheby's for £2.75 million. The illustrated book, which came to light after 700 years in a private British collection, was bought anonymously.

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Duchy provides Prince of Wales with £6m profit

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE Duchy of Cornwall, which provides the Prince of Wales's income, made a profit of £6 million last year, a 9 per cent increase.

The duchy's net surplus for the year to March 31 was £5,955,000, compared with £5,831,067 in the previous 15 months, a single span marking a change in accounting dates, from the calendar years used previously, to bring the accounts in line with its business operations.

The money is used, as it has been since the duchy was created by Edward III in 1337, to provide an income for the heir to the throne to cover the cost of his public and private life. He does not get a Civil List allowance: nor do his sons.

The financial report shows a 9.8 per cent annual increase in the estate's surplus. The report, placed in the House of Commons and House of Lords libraries, deals with only

duchy business — the estate owns land and property in 22 counties — and says nothing about how the Prince uses the income.

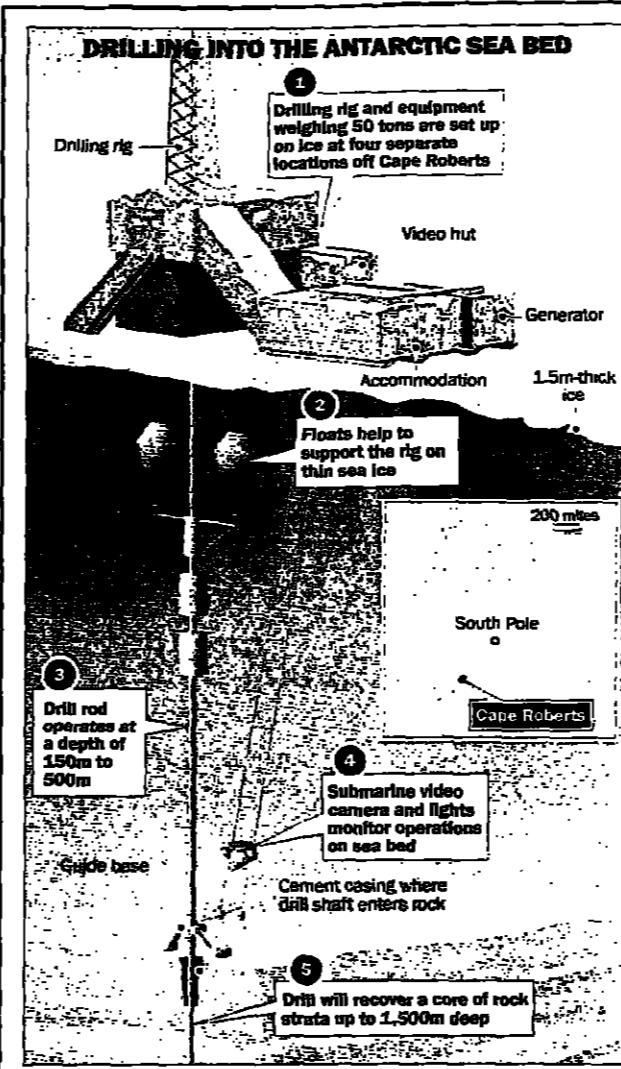
Previous estimates have suggested that his annual duchy income is, after tax, likely to be £4 million, of which about £2.5 million is thought to go on official expenses. As a Crown body, the duchy is tax-exempt, but the Prince voluntarily pays income tax — currently at 40 per cent — on his income from it. He had always paid a voluntary contribution to the Treasury of 50 per cent of his duchy income from when he became eligible for its full income at the age of 21 in 1969, and 25 per cent after his marriage in 1981.

Tax is calculated after deducting official expenditure, the biggest element of which is his staff of about 70 at St James's Palace and Highgrove. Records are kept to determine the split between

public and private expenditure. Staff duties include organising engagements — more than 500 last year at home and abroad — and handling contacts with the 400-plus organisations with which the Prince is involved.

Total duchy income for the 12 months amounted to £14,101,000. The estate's lettings of agricultural, commercial and residential properties contributed £11,246,000. Income from investments on the Stock Exchange and interest on cash holdings accounted for £2,074,000. Operating costs for estates of 128,000 acres (51,270 hectares) rose to £6,383,000 for the year, and for the duchy as a whole to £7,096,000.

Investment in improvements, maintenance and repairs was £3,729,000, compared to £3.5 million in the previous 15 months and £2.6 million in 1995, and has amounted to £30 million in the past ten years.



Time when Antarctic warmed to whelks

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS drilling off the coast of Antarctica have discovered that the climate suddenly warmed up just over a million years ago.

Sediments taken from the seabed last October show that clams, scallops, whelks and barnacles flourished during the brief period of higher temperature, when there was no sea ice.

The discovery has come as a surprise to those involved in the six-nation project, which is studying the climate of the continent over the past 100 million years. They knew that, in the distant past, dinosaurs had roamed a forested Antarctica and that, about 35 million years ago, a period of cooling created the vast ice sheets that now cover it.

The research involves drilling through sediments on the bed of the Ross Sea, using sea ice only 5ft thick to carry the drilling rig. The operation in October lasted only a few weeks before a storm and an unseasonal rise in temperature started

to crack the ice, ten miles from land.

At one point, a crack more than a yard wide appeared. Fearing their 50-ton drilling rig would disappear beneath 480ft of water, the scientists beat a retreat. They plan to start afresh in October in a different area.

"There was no panic, but there was an air of concern," Ken Woolfe, an Australian scientist, admitted. "There was blinding snow and a Force 10 or 11 gale, but the real problem was the swell, which made the ice rise and fall."

The team, from Britain, America, Australia, Germany, Italy and New Zealand, is meeting at University College London this week to discuss the results from the drilling to about 480ft into the sediments, which represents up to 22 million years.

The sediments show ten major variations in the extent of sea ice and sea levels over the period. One warm period, about 17 million

years ago, is believed to correspond to what the Earth might be like in three or four centuries if global warming trends establish themselves.

Peter Barrett, of Victoria University, in Wellington, New Zealand, the project co-ordinator, said that, at present there was no evidence of global warming affecting Antarctica. "Apart from the Antarctic Peninsula, which has warmed up, temperatures in Antarctica haven't changed in the past 30 years."

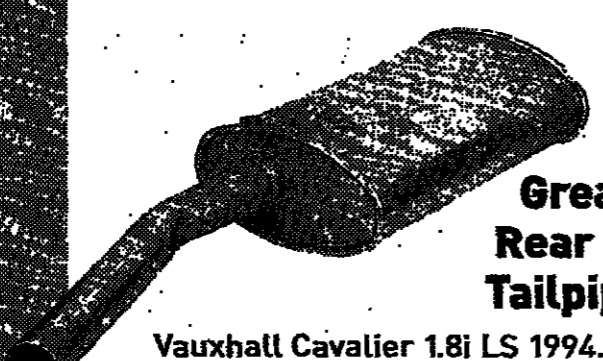
A full explanation of the climatic changes seen in the cores awaits more detailed analysis. In October, Mike Thomson, of the British Antarctic Survey, said, it is planned to drill far enough to go back to the period before Antarctica was glaciated.

"Satellite images of the area make it look as though the sea ice is forming better than it has done in recent years, giving us hope of the best opportunity yet" he said.

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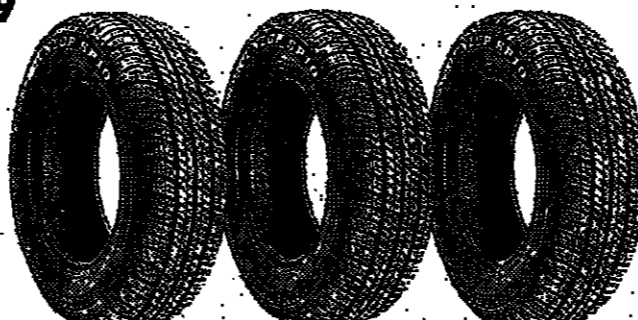
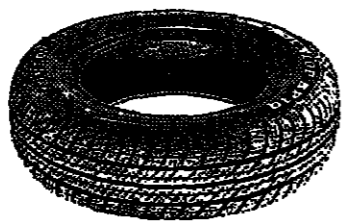
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Priest jailed for sex attacks on altar boys

BY AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A ROMAN Catholic priest who sexually abused children in hospital and altar boys he called his "little angels" was jailed for two years yesterday.

Victims condemned the sentence at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court as too lenient. Ivan Payne admitted 13 sample charges of sexual assault. The victims, all boys aged between 11 and 14, were assaulted in the priest's home or in a Dublin children's hospital where Payne was chaplain.

A former altar boy, now 31, who attended court, said: "He will be out of prison before I have properly got over what he did to me." The man, who declined to be named, was assaulted by Payne in the priest's house 17 years ago and still suffers panic attacks.

Payne, 54, was sentenced to six years in jail but four were suspended on condition that he attend a rehabilitation programme. Judge Cyril Kelly said the priest had already suffered public humiliation after the disclosure of his crimes, carried out between 1968 and 1987.

Payne is the 31st Catholic clergyman in the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland to be convicted of child sexual abuse since 1980.

Protected sites have not halted bird decline

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

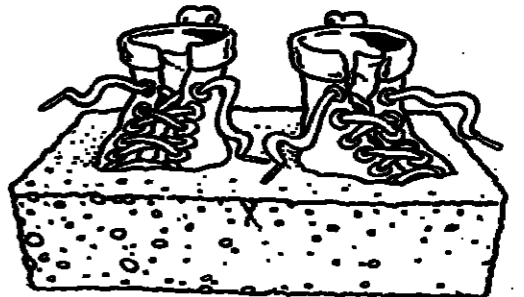
BIRDS in some national reserves are disappearing as fast as in unprotected areas, according to a report today. The findings have led conservationists to call for a strengthening of laws on sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs).

Studies by the RSPB show that lapwings and curlews on the north Staffordshire moorlands, a protected site, declined by up to 43 per cent between 1985 and 1996. The decline applied outside the site. The RSPB said: "You would think that birds in SSSIs would be faring better. But this is often not the case." The state of neglect and poor management of many SSSIs showed the need for reform.

The review of the state of protected sites in England, Wales and Northern Ireland claims that, between 1991 and 1996, one in five was damaged and that in England, nearly half were being mismanaged or neglected. Others, it said, had been ploughed up for high-value crops or drained by water firms.

The RSPB is calling on the Government to pay only those landowners who manage SSSIs for wildlife, and to enforce their status.

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Foreign Office makes diplomatic protest over cuts

By NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S most senior diplomat yesterday challenged Gordon Brown's plans to slash Foreign Office spending with a warning that his budget has faced so many cuts "you can hear the pips squeak".

Wading into the feud between Robin Cook and the Chancellor over the Foreign Office's £1 billion annual budget, Sir John Kerr said that "down-sizing" was undermining British diplomacy around the world.

The Head of the Diplomatic Service told the all-party Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee that his budget has declined by 14 per cent in real terms since 1990. Gordon Brown is looking for further cuts in the Government's comprehensive spending review, to be finalised next month, to release extra money for health and education.

Sir John reeled off a series of

statistics to show how British diplomats were stretched to their limits and how they have to labour under poorer conditions than their European counterparts. In Prague, Britain has 19 staff compared with Germany's 43 and France's 41. Sir John said that Britain would be at a serious disadvantage when the Czech Republic joined the European Union and had a say on laws affecting Britain.

Using the widget analogy, Sir John said: "I worry about whether we are being sufficiently proactive making new contacts because standards for widgets they are thinking of in these capitals may very well be German standards that don't suit us very well."

Sir John also said that Britain had made the mistake of cutting its diplomats in Latin America to free resources for the 29 new missions which have opened since

the fall of the Berlin Wall. Britain was also under-represented in the United States, with only one British diplomat at the consulate in Seattle, even though Britain has a £1 billion export trade to Boeing in Washington state.

Sir John added that there was a danger of taking down-sizing too far. He said: "There are opportunities that the UK should be seizing around the world, which the process of steady downward trend will make it very difficult to sustain."

Sir John, who was tetchy during his last two appearances before the committee as he fielded hostile questions on Sierra Leone, opened by saying that he had no intention of disagreeing with the Treasury which he sarcastically referred to as the "fountain of wisdom". From then on he prefaced every mention of the Treasury with the mocking tribute that



Sir John Kerr, who told MPs that his budget had been cut until "the pips squeak"

it was a department "we neither fear nor loathe". The committee was appalled to learn that Britain is owed £41 million for its United Nations peacekeeping work because of America's refusal

to pay its £690 million debt to the UN. MPs also laughed when Sir John brushed off a question from a Labour MP about how he could justify spending £30 million on a new embassy in Moscow, which is

more than the projected cost of the new Scottish parliament. "I am a Glasgow man, not an Edinburgh man. But I do not think the security risks are quite as high, even in Edinburgh," he said.

Field argues case for compulsory second pension

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FRANK FIELD will today give a strong signal that the Government intends to back compulsory second pensions as he argues the case for individuals to contribute more to welfare provision. But he will also make clear that the Government has a duty to target more money on the poorest groups who are unable to help themselves. Speaking to social affairs ministers in Paris, the Minister for Welfare Reform will call for a new contract between the individual and the Government based on "mutual duties".

Mr Field will stress that poorer pensioners should be helped but that all those who can should be able to save money for when they retire. He will argue that it is time to move on from the idea of rights and responsibilities on which Labour fought its general election campaign.

"The Government has a duty to tackle poverty in old age — the individual has a duty to save for their retirement wherever possible." The Government's Green

Paper on pension reform has now been delayed till the autumn amid renewed signs of a battle between Mr Field and Gordon Brown. Mr Field is arguing for extra cash to boost the income for the poorest pensioners to ensure a minimum guaranteed pension but the Chancellor is wary of the added cost to the taxpayer.

While the Prime Minister is said to back the idea of individuals contributing more to compulsory second pensions, those who cannot afford to save will need extra state help to supplement the dwindling state pension.

Today Mr Field will set out his interpretation of the third way in welfare reform. "The third way is about government helping people by actively enabling them to make their own choices," he will say.

"The path we in the UK have set out for welfare reform moves away from ideas of rights and responsibilities. Instead it seeks to establish a contract between the Government and the individual based on mutual duties."

Committee delays its verdict on Robinson

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

OPINION swung against Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, yesterday on the Commons committee investigating allegations that he broke parliamentary rules over his failure to declare directorships linked to Robert Maxwell.

A verdict will be delivered in two weeks by the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee. The Tories will demand Mr Robinson's resignation if there is any criticism from the all-party committee over non-declaration.

At the centre of the four-month inquiry is Mr Robinson's chairmanship of Hollis Industries between 1989-90 which was not declared in the MPs' register of interests. The company accounts clearly show that in 1990 Mr Robinson was paid £200,000 for his chairmanship of the company.

But Mr Robinson has publicly denied that he received any remuneration and said there had been an accounting error.

Sir Gordon Downey addressed the committee behind closed doors yesterday. MPs will consider his interim report before deciding whether to discipline Mr Robinson.

Asian voters left facing double act at party night

By POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

ASIAN guests arriving for an evening function at the Café Royal in Central London next Thursday might think they are victims of an odd double-booking. Three hundred will be heading for dinner with the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, while another 150 will dine with William Hague, the Tory leader.

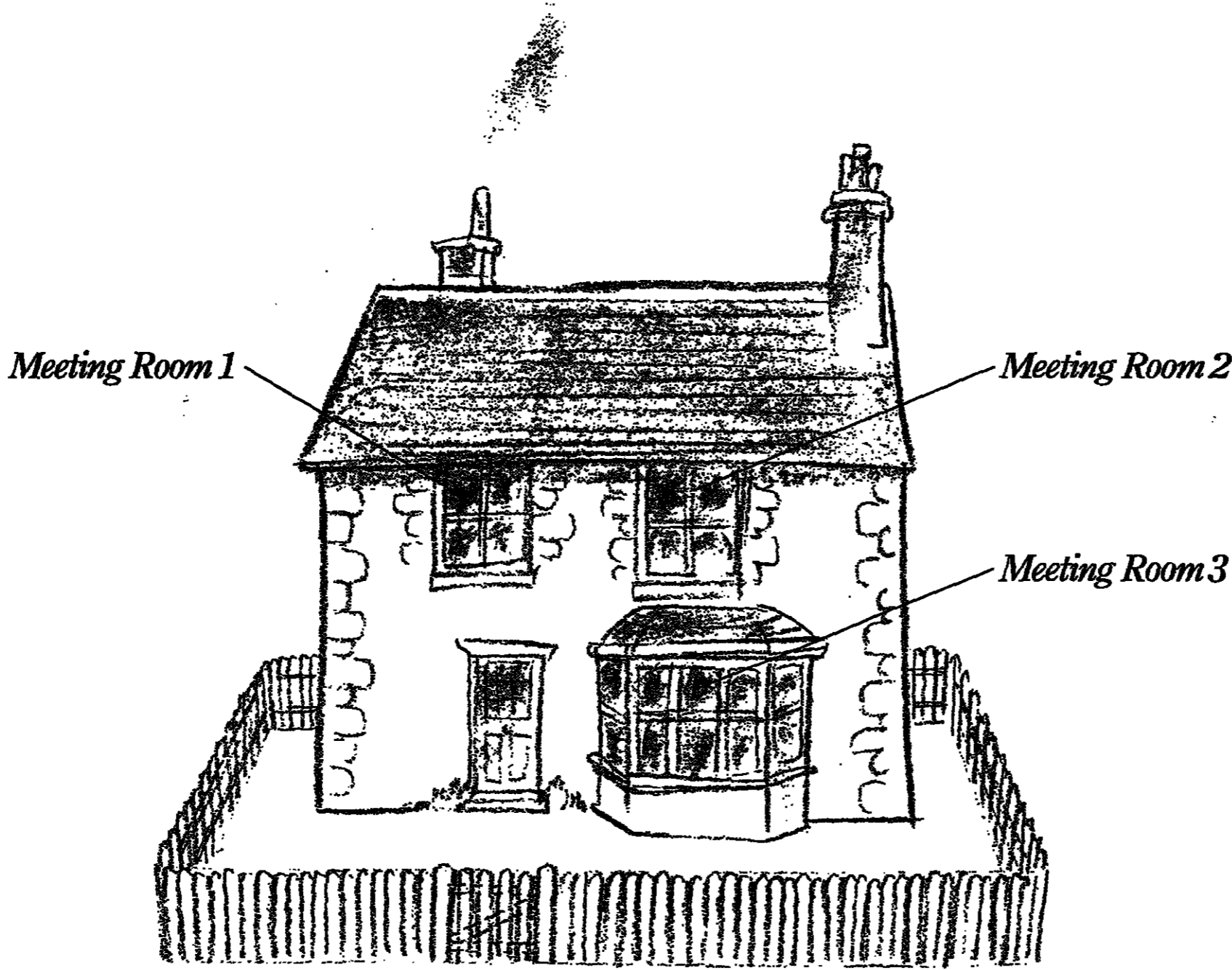
The clash is the most high-profile yet in the battle to woo Asian voters, who are said to make a significant difference to election results in about 40 marginal constituencies.

The dinner with Mr Straw has been organised by the Asian Business Network. It will be chaired by Keith Vaz, Labour MP for Leicester East.

The man behind the £60-a-head Tory event is Shailesh Vara, 34, a City lawyer who has targeted many of the younger movers and shakers in the Asian community.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: Welsh questions to the Prime Minister; Human Rights Bill; committee short debate on coastal erosion; in the Lords: Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) (Amendment) Bill; third reading; European Parliamentary Elections Bill; committee: Road Traffic Reduction (National Targets) Bill; report.



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Belgians call for action to tame drivers

BELGIANS clamoured for government action against drink-driving yesterday after a horrifying accident that highlighted the country's failure to reform traffic habits that make its roads among the most dangerous in Europe.

In the latest road carnage, a lorry ran into a family of five as they were cycling back from a school fête on a cycle path at Schilde, near Antwerp. Marc and Bernadette Hofmans-Sebregts were killed, as were a son and a daughter. Another son, four, was maimed. Lucas Cabuy, the lorry driver, who had swerved at high-speed off the road into the bicycle track, was arrested with what police said was four times the legal limit of alcohol in his blood.

The accident, not outstanding by the standards of Belgium's Wild West road culture, has sparked an outcry from politicians and safety organisations and prompted questions about the failure to tackle an accident rate that ranks close to that of Greece and Portugal. A European

Public fury may bring order to Europe's wildest roads, writes Charles Bremner

Union study earlier this month found that the most dangerous single region in the 15-nation block was southeastern Belgium. The Belgian death rate is two-and-a-half times that of Britain. "This is the umpteenth dramatic accident on our roads and the umpteenth illustration of the lack of any real road safety policy in Belgium," said Jos Ansoms, a leading Flemish MP.

The target of public anger was the soft treatment of drunk drivers and other serious offenders. If found guilty of involuntary homicide and leaving the scene of Sunday

afternoon's accident, Mr Cabuy faces a possible maximum prison term of four years. Such measures are rarely applied. In May a driver who ran into a procession of 28 pilgrims, killing five, received a suspended sentence and was fined £680.

Government officials point to a continuing drop in the death toll from a peak in the 1970s, a trend reflected across the EU. But safety experts argue that the country needs a revolution in its approach to law enforcement and its mentality at the wheel.

Like much in Belgian life, the problem can be partly blamed on the country's confused and crisis-ridden state. The road system and traffic enforcement are largely the responsibility of local authorities and regional governments — Flanders, Brussels and Wallonia.

The police, short-staffed and discredited by scandals such as the Droux child-murder case, rarely seem to enforce speed limits or make alcohol



This Lille-Ghent motorway crash in 1996 was one of Belgium's worst. It involved 125 vehicles and left nine people dead and more than 80 injured

checks, especially in French-speaking areas.

In contrast the roads of neighbouring Germany, France and The Netherlands swarm with patrol cars. Parking tickets and minor traffic

finer routinely go unpaid. The Road Safety Institute reported recently that 60 per cent of people injured in road accidents on Saturday nights were under the influence of alcohol.

A visitor is quick to learn that

wild driving is the norm, from the capital's streets to country lanes, by young men and elderly women alike.

Until 1970, no driving test was needed to get a licence. One traffic expert at the main

Brussels university told students last month that the love of "tailgating" on motorways sprang from Belgians' sociable nature.

Close bunching of cars and lorries at high speed was

blamed in February 1996 for one of the country's worst multiple crashes: nine people were killed and more than 80 hurt in a 125-vehicle pile-up in fog on the Lille-Ghent motorway.

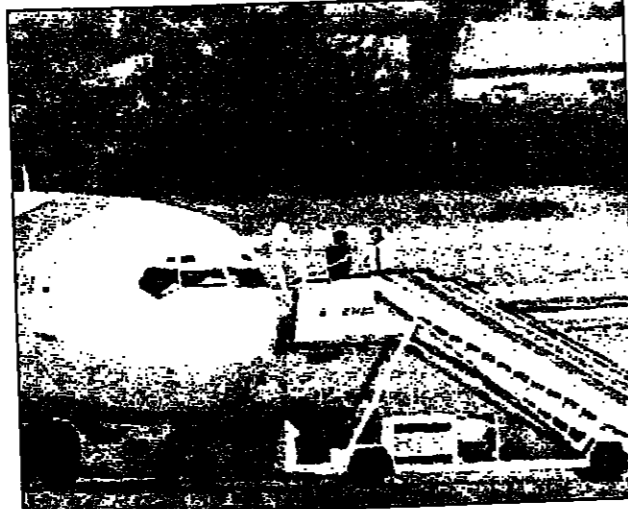
Security rings net Spanish hijacker

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

THE hijacking of a Spanish domestic flight ended yesterday after some of the 124 passengers on board used their mobile telephones to tell police that the hijacker was an unarmed, mentally disturbed Spaniard and not a terrorist.

Javier Gomez, 43, forced an Iberia flight from Seville to Barcelona to land at Valencia, in eastern Spain, after telling the pilot he had a remote control device that could activate a bomb in a suitcase in the hold.

Police persuaded him to release 15 children and three



The hijacker, left, on the aircraft's steps in Valencia

elderly people. But he then threatened to blow up the Boeing 727 if it was not flown to Tel Aviv.

While police marksmen surrounded the aircraft, passengers with mobile phones called their homes, the police and radio stations. One of

them told a station that the hijacker "seems to be carrying a television remote control".

Police sent Gomez a mobile phone so he could speak to the psychiatrist who had been treating him for paranoid delusions. A few minutes later he agreed to give himself up.

Eurocorps off to start its first mission

Brussels Troops from the Eurocorps, the would-be embryo for a future European defence force, flew to Sarajevo from their Strasbourg base yesterday on their first operational mission since President Mitterrand and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, created it in 1993 (Charles Bremner writes).

The 150 personnel, mainly officers and NCOs from Germany, France, Spain, Belgium and Luxembourg, will staff the headquarters of the Nato-led Stabilisation Force (Sfor), which has been keeping the peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina under the Dayton peace accords.

The Eurocorps, which has 60,000 troops from the five countries, has been training since 1993 for its first active deployment.

'Herr Blair' draws on foreign aide

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH government aides and advisers are closely involved in helping Gerhard Schröder in his campaign to help Herr Blair, the German Chancellor, in the general election later this year, it emerged last night.

An aide to the Foreign Office has helped with campaign material and spoken at a rally for Herr Schröder, the Social Democratic leader, dubbed "Herr Blair" because of his modernising agenda.

Denis MacShane, parliamentary aide to Foreign Office ministers, visited Herr Schröder's regional headquarters in Hanover on Monday and has been helping with his campaign material. Mr MacShane, MP for Rotherham, gave the "warm up" speech for a regional rally shortly before Herr Schröder announced he would challenge Herr Kohl in September.

Geoff Mulgan, a member of Downing Street's policy unit, has also been conducting regular seminars behind closed doors in Bonn, explaining Mr Blair's third way approach to politicians and academics.

Herr Schröder's draft elec-

tion manifesto adopts language used by Labour such as "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime". It also describes the benefits of a stakeholder society and the need to get people off welfare into work.

Oskar Lafontaine, the SPD chairman has also been conducting a close study of Mr Blair.

Tory MPs said last night that it would be highly unusual and inadvisable for ministerial aides to assist in an election campaign by foreign politicians.

Labour sources said that ministers would be unable to overtly support any election campaign abroad, but added that Labour MPs would not necessarily be bound by the same guidelines.

It is understood that Mr MacShane was acting in his personal capacity as a Labour MP with both fluent German and strong links with social democratic groups in Europe. He did not officially clear his visits to Herr Schröder's campaign group with either Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, or the Prime Minister.

On Monday, Mr MacShane delivered a speech in Bieleberg in Germany about Mr Blair's first year in power. The speech had been planned for months but he stopped en route in Hanover to visit the SPD regional headquarters, where he advised on campaign material.

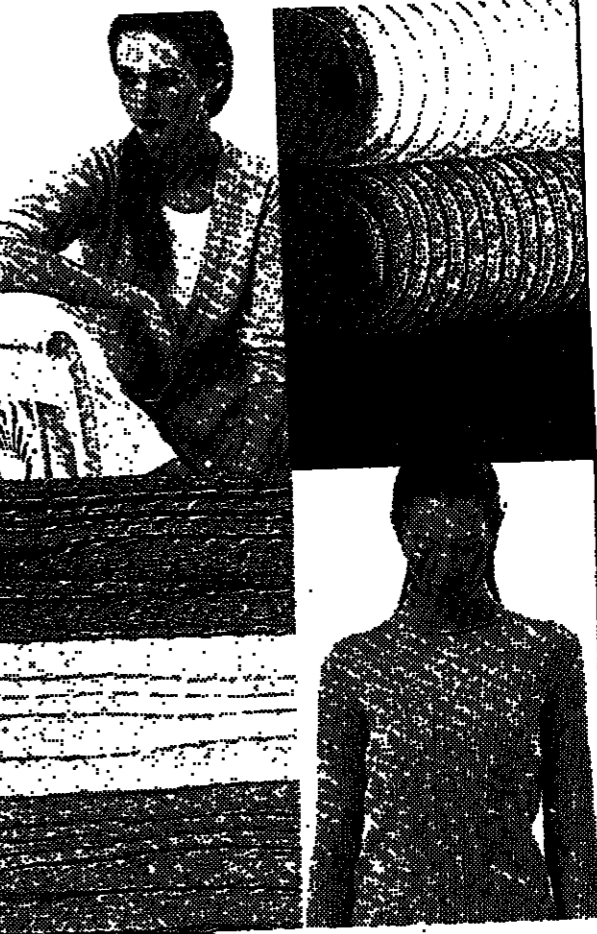
Mr MacShane suggested that Herr Schröder should write a series of published letters to known or fictitious people in which he spelt out areas of his manifesto.

In a letter to an elderly person, for example, he would give details of his policy on pensions.



MacShane offered help with election material

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Yeltsin raises alarm over financial crisis

BY NIGEL GLASS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT YELTSIN sounded a warning yesterday that Russia's financial crisis had reached alarming proportions and demanded radical, urgent steps to avert political instability and social unrest.

Sergei Kiriyenko, the Prime Minister, responded by outlining measures including a tax shake-up, spending cuts, protection for the rouble and plans to reduce the key interest rate by more than half, from 60 per cent to 30 per cent.

"The economic crisis has become so acute that there are social and political dangers," Mr Yeltsin told a rare joint meeting of the Government and parliament.

Aware that the International Monetary Fund is looking for swift reform before further loans, he warned the opposition-led Duma, the lower house, not to block Mr Kiriyenko's measures. "The price of delays, fussing and fighting is too high today," he said.

Failure to turn plans into action could undermine the 67-year-old Kremlin leader

Russia's leader is demanding urgent steps to stabilise the country's failing economy and to avert social unrest

and unnerve the IMF. That, in turn, would deepen the crisis and alarm the West.

"I am not inclined to dramatise the situation, but extreme tension in Russian society has become a reality," Mr Yeltsin said.

In weeks of turmoil on the



Kiriyenko: will try to protect the poor

financial markets, shares have lost half their value and government moves have failed to end speculation that the rouble will be devalued. The Duma's approval is needed for many of the measures outlined by Mr Kiriyenko in a 25-minute speech. Mr Yeltsin said the house, which has often opposed him, must quickly adopt Mr Kiriyenko's programme or face unspecified "other measures", a thinly veiled threat to dissolve the chamber.

"These measures have to be adopted before the start of the Duma's summer holiday [July 16]," Mr Yeltsin said. He then picked up a glass of tea and sipped from it. An embarrassed silence dragged on for more than 20 seconds before he said: "If you do not adopt the laws proposed in the programme, I will take other measures."

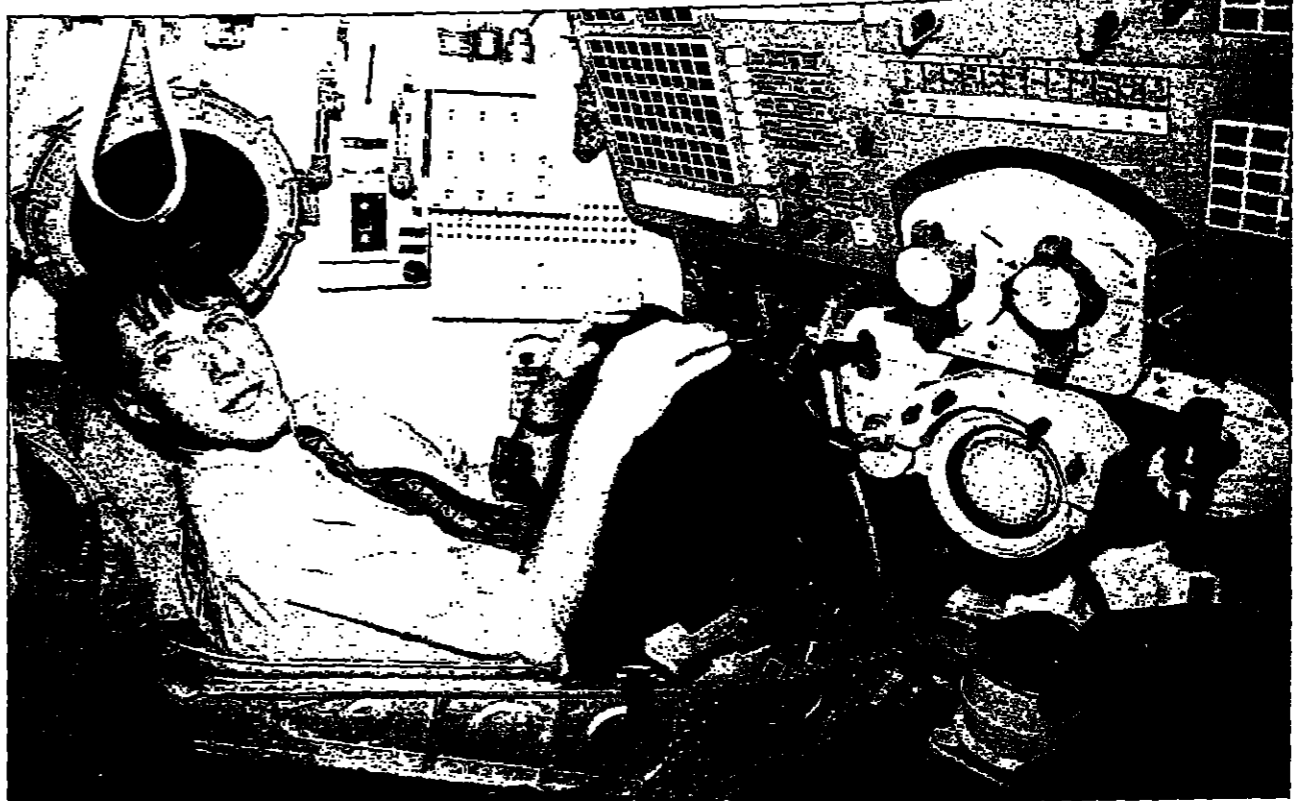
Mr Kiriyenko, who is 35 and

took office in April, promised austerity measures that will not be popular but are designed to shield the country's poor.

Mr Kiriyenko promised to defend the rouble, although Gennadi Seleznyov, the Speaker, said before the meeting that he thought devaluation was likely soon and that it could bring down the Government. But Mr Kiriyenko will have hoped he pleased an IMF team which is in Moscow for talks on handing out \$670 million (£400 million) from an existing loan as well as possible extra aid.

The World Trade Organisation believes that Russia may have lost ground permanently to former Soviet satellites in moving towards a market economy, according to Chulsa Kim, Deputy Director-General of the organisation. He was addressing a three-day Central and East European economic summit in Salzburg, ending today.

Russian practices were contrasted with those in countries that were on the brink of joining the European Union, including Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic.



Astronaut Michael Foale in a Russian Soyuz escape capsule at the Johnson Space Centre in Houston, Texas

Mir crash crew was minutes away from death

Houston: Michael Foale nearly died when a cargo ship collided with Russia's Mir space station in one of the worst accidents in space history.

British-born Dr Foale reflects on the June 25, 1997 crash with remarkable calm. He was on a four-month mission as Nasa's astronaut on the flight when Captain Tsibilyev tried to dock with a Progress cargo ship. Mission Control

wanted him to do the job manually to save money. With limited tools, Captain Tsibilyev could not tell how far away the Progress ship was or how fast it was moving. When he realised a crash was imminent, he told Dr Foale to prepare the Soyuz escape capsule.

As air rushed out of the Spektr module, punctured in the crash, the crew hurried to shut the hatch, which was blocked by a

series of cables. Dr Foale says they closed the hatch with only minutes to spare, but the space station lost all power because they had to unplug cables to the main solar panels.

He returned to Earth in October enthusiastic about the space programme and is deputy director of the Johnson Space Centre, with dreams of going to Mars in the next century. (Reuters)

WORLD IN BRIEF

Gucci trial widow had brain tumour

Milan: The former wife of the murdered fashion magnate Maurizio Gucci suffered a personality change as a tangerine-size tumour grew on her brain, a doctor told a Milan court.

Patrizia Reggiani Gucci, 50, dubbed the "Black Widow", is accused of ordering the 1995 murder of her former husband after the break-up of their marriage. The defence contends that she was not mentally capable of plotting Gucci's murder because of the effects of a tumour that was removed from the left side of her brain in 1992. "The illness caused a change in personality and a reduction in the critical faculties," Ludovico Infuso, the neurosurgeon who operated on her, said after showing the court X-rays of her brain. The trial continues. (Reuters)

Jams to cost New York £4bn

New York: Rush-hour traffic jams will cost New York City an estimated \$6.6 billion (£4.1 billion) this year in lost revenue and income, it was reported (Tunku Varadarajan writes). A study commissioned by the Daily News, a local paper, found that businesses in the city are losing valuable man-hours and drivers are wasting petrol in the worst traffic congestion ever recorded there.

McCartney snub upsets Ono

New York: Yoko Ono, widow of John Lennon, has criticised Sir Paul McCartney for not inviting her to a memorial service here for his wife Linda (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Ms Ono's spokesman said: "She was not invited. She was saddened by it. There were good relations. I wouldn't have any idea why." Sean Lennon, Ms Ono's son, was also not on the guestlist.

18 die in school bus attack

Kigali: An attack on a schoolbus in western Rwanda left 18 dead and 40 wounded, mostly children, sources told AFP. The attack occurred on Monday afternoon in Kivumu on the road to Kibuye town about 60 miles west of Kigali, hospital sources had said earlier. The assailants have not been identified, but the attack was thought to be the work of Hutu extremists. (AFP)

Swiss reject Jew's plea

Zurich: The Swiss rebuffed a demand for compensation from a Jewish refugee who was detained in Switzerland in 1943, handed over to a German army patrol and eventually sent to Auschwitz. A letter sent to Joseph Spring's lawyer said the Government deeply regretted the incident but that the demand for Sfr100,000 (£40,000) was neither legally valid nor justified. (Reuters)

Advert proves to be dead loss

Sydney: Jason Miller, 26, who wanted a day off work to attend a job interview, placed a notice in a newspaper announcing the death of his father. But the request for "bereavement leave" backfired when his father complained to police that news of his death was premature, the Sydney Daily Telegraph said. Miller faces a maximum three months' jail. (Reuters)

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North Korean crew feared dead as captured midget submarine sinks

By JENNIFER VEALE
IN SEOUL AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE crew of a captured North Korean spy submarine were feared dead after the vessel filled with water and sank as it was being towed to harbour by South Korean Navy vessels yesterday.

The Yugo Class mini-submarine, captured on Monday after it became entangled in trawling nets, sank to the ocean floor about half a mile from a South Korean naval

base. Sonar probes had not detected any movement in the submarine and officials concluded that the crew were either dead or had escaped after fishermen reported the vessel was in difficulty.

The submarine, which can carry seven men, filled with water during the 20-hour tow to the naval port of Donghae. South Korean officials speculated that it may have developed a leak or suffered from malfunctioning ballast valves, which regulate depth.

"The inside might have been

filled with water, and it is possible the crew perhaps drowned or suffocated due to lack of oxygen," said Lim Jong Chon, a senior official with South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff. Divers worked to raise the submarine and will continue today.

The fate of the crew has gripped South Koreans, who recall a 53-day manhunt for a submarine two years ago in which 24 of the 25 men aboard were killed.

North Korea routinely conducts espionage operations along South

Korea's coastline. Pyongyang's official Central News Agency reported yesterday that a submarine had been wrecked on a training mission and the fate of its crew was unknown.

The incident occurred as North Korea and US generals met for the first time since 1991 for military talks aimed at defusing tension on the Korean peninsula. The capture prompted the US-led United Nations Command to use the landmark meeting in the truce village of Panmunjom to lodge a protest

with Pyongyang, South Korean officials said.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported that South Korea and the United States concurred that the incident was a violation of the armistice signed to keep the peace after the Korean War.

South Korea lists 21 incidents since 1968 in which North Korean agents were either shot dead by South Korean forces or who committed suicide to avoid capture.

"The assumption here is that this sort of thing goes on all the

time," said Peter Bartholomew, managing director of Industrial Research and Consulting Ltd and a Korean resident for the past 25 years. "The problem is, the South Korean Navy has insufficient resources for detection," Mr Bartholomew said.

While the two Koreas have been taking tentative steps to improve ties since the inauguration of President Kim Dae Jung of South Korea in February, they still share the most militarised border on the planet. The secretive Communist

state in the North welcomed a visit over the past week by Chung Ju Yung, the Hyundai Group founder, who yesterday returned to South Korea.

Tokyo, Japan said yesterday that North Korea's missile programme and its suspected nuclear weapons development posed a grave threat to the world. In its annual defence white paper, the report also gave a warning that Asia's financial crisis could destabilise security in the region. (Reuters)

Science poised to grow organs

FROM GILES WHITTILL
IN LOS ANGELES

REPLACEMENT organs and heart "patches" grown inside the body could be available within a decade, according to a biotechnology company licensed to use three new patents granted by the US Government this week.

Cutting-edge science that has already produced new livers in rats and dogs is ready to be transferred to humans, the company said. If successful it could end doctors' reliance on scarce donor organs and imperfect man-made implants.

Using a biodegradable polymer "scaffold", Advanced Tissue Sciences, the California firm to which the patents have been licensed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has already pioneered the growth of human skin and cartilage.

It took human foreskins from circumcisions, cut the skin into tiny sections and immersed it in petri dishes containing enzymes and nutrients that enable the underlayer of skin to regrow. The result is artificial skin.

Researchers specialising in cartilage regeneration have used similar dissolving scaffolds to grow human ears on the backs of mice. The same techniques have also proved successful with bone and muscle tissue.

The next step is to implant the scaffolds into defective areas of organs such as the liver or heart, according to Dr Gail Naughton of Advance Tissue Sciences. "You can use the patient's own cells or cells from another compatible person, put them into the defect on a scaffold and allow the person's body to grow those cells into a functional tissue," she said.

Third World boys 'sold as soccer slaves'

THOUSANDS of football-loving boys who hope to become World Cup stars are being "enslaved" by unscrupulous European talent scouts who buy youngsters in Africa and Latin America from their families for pittance in a "new colonialism", the Vatican said yesterday.

At least 3,000 boys aged between eight and ten have been lured from Nigeria, Cameroon, Brazil and other countries in recent years to work with false identities in Europe in the hope of becoming international soccer stars, said the Rome magazine *Fides*, which is produced by the Vatican congregation that oversees Roman Catholic missionaries.

Of those children, only about 100 ended with reasonably paid jobs with football clubs at 16 or 17, according to the report, headlined "Slaves in Short Trousers".

In London Baroness Cox, a long-standing activist in the fight to end slavery in Sudan and other countries, told *Corriere della Sera* that anti-slavery campaigners should mobilise, adding: "We are ready to deal with this new emergency of baby soccer slaves."

Father Bernardo Cervellera, the editor of *Fides*, said that scores of European talent scouts typically paid families in Africa the equivalent of £100 to £200 for the boys, whose names are subsequently changed and who are given false documents and sent to Europe for training in junior clubs. "These talent scouts are like poachers," said Father Cervellera. "They work in the suburbs of the big cities in Africa and in Brazil. They go in search of children who know how to play soccer well. Of course, there are hundreds of such children in those neighbourhoods. Then they buy them from their parents for a few hundred francs, at

Talent scouts lure thousands with dream of football fame, writes John Phillips

the most for 1,000 francs (£120) in Africa.

"The parents agree because they hope that their son will become a new Pelé, a Ronaldo. Some of them succeed. We estimate that out of between 2,000 and 3,000 children taken in recent years about 100 have managed to play for clubs of a decent level."

In Cameroon street children and minors who escape from prison dream of emigrating to Europe in the hope of making fortunes as soccer players. *Fides* quoted a correspondent there as saying: "The hunters whom one could count on one hand a few years ago have proliferated and now there are dozens."

Father Cervellera added that "those who do not manage to get a steady job even in a minor team go home and be-

come disoriented. We do not know what happens to many of them. It is a kind of cultural subversion. Their future nearly always is ruined when they hang up their boots."

The Vatican's concern was questioned by the International Management Agency, which represents the PR interests of international stars such as the Romanian goalkeeper Stelea and the Tunisian international players el-Quaer and Badra.

"A soccer club would never accept a small boy proposed by agencies or persons it did not know to be trustworthy," said Antonio Strina for the agency. "Of course, there is very great interest in the African scene among European soccer clubs. Many European teams such as Ajax of Holland have a permanent presence both with finance and observers, in African countries where football activity is intense."

He said that the Italian clubs Roma and Internazionale were the most active in Africa. "They help amateur teams financially and are ready to take on promising young people. But obviously everything they do is above board. It does happen sometimes that the owner of a restaurant or holiday village in Cameroon or Nigeria believes he has discovered a young champion and tries to exploit him. But these are unusual cases."

The Vatican views the search for young stars as part of a post-colonial syndrome. "Europe is only interested in Africa for what it can import from there," said Father Cervellera. "One talks about Africa and the World Cup while people in Guinea-Bissau are dying of hunger and it matters to nobody. All people are interested in from Africa these days is soccer."

World Cup, pages 41-43, 48



Cox, slavery activist is calling for crackdown



The Singing Senators, a group of senior Republicans, performing at a fundraising concert for the Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Research Foundation this week. From left, Trent Lott, Larry Craig, John

Senators' vocal support

Ashcroft and Jim Jeffords raised an estimated \$200,000 (£123,000). The quartet sang at the Republican Convention in 1996 and have since made countless

fundraising and charity performances. The benefit this week was of particular significance to Mr Ashcroft, who has sung on his own at the Grand Ole Opry in

Nashville and has three albums under his belt. "My father-in-law died of Alzheimer's disease," he said. "This is a personal matter: it's not just an opportunity to raise money for some charity." They recorded a CD in December.

Bhutto denies 'fabricated' charges

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN
IN KARACHI

BENAZIR BHUTTO has denied that she owned all overseas properties and bank accounts linked to her by Pakistani investigators and said the charges against her were fabricated.

In a petition filed at Lahore high court, Miss Bhutto declared that the investigator did not have any proof of her alleged bank accounts in Switzerland and other countries. The former Prime Minister who is facing several charges, including corruption, had challenged an earlier

court order freezing her assets. She said the court orders had left her with no income to pay for the schooling of her children and fees for her lawyers.

A Lahore high court judge last month ordered freezing of properties and bank accounts owned by the Bhutto family. The frozen assets include the family's vast agricultural land, bank accounts and residences in Karachi and in Miss Bhutto's ancestral village in the Larkana district.

The court has also ordered the closure of six sugar mills in southern province of Sindh which the investigators alleged

were owned by front men for Asif Ali Zardari, Miss Bhutto's husband.

Millions of pounds worth of properties owned by former members of her government have also been confiscated during the investigation.

The government investigators have claimed Miss Bhutto and Mr Zardari hid more than £600m in overseas accounts. Saifur Rehman, the chief anti-corruption investigator, said the Government had discovered 36 more secret bank accounts owned by Miss Bhutto and her family members in several European countries and the United States.

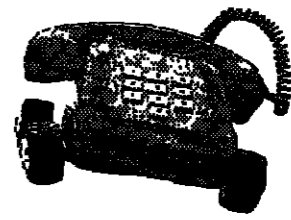
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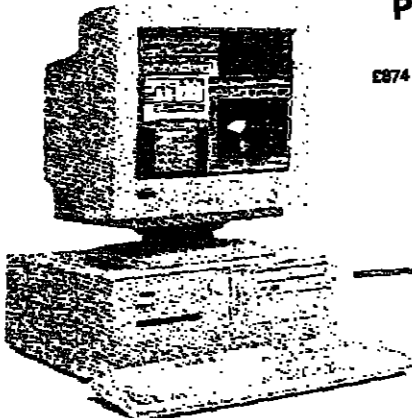
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UN seizes Iraqi nerve gas evidence

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

UNITED NATIONS weapons inspectors have found compelling evidence that Iraq placed deadly VX nerve gas in missile warheads before the Gulf War, sources in New York and Washington said yesterday.

The disclosure, contradicting all claims to the contrary by President Saddam Hussein's regime, is contained in a confidential American laboratory analysis of warhead fragments recovered by the UN

Special Commission from a site at Nibai in Iraq. Swabs analysed at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds training centre in Maryland showed "significant amounts of VX disulfide... and stabiliser" in the samples, recovered by the inspection team in March.

The results, leaked in Washington yesterday, appeared before the next review of Iraqi sanctions at the UN Security Council tomorrow and are certain to strengthen America's hand in requesting a further 60-day embargo

against Baghdad. They appear to confirm an account in 1994 by Wafiq Samarrai, Saddam's former chief of military intelligence, who defected, that at least ten warheads filled with VX and ten with anthrax had been available to Iraqi troops in 1991. It also tallied with experts' long-held suspicions that Iraq succeeded a decade ago in stabilising VX for transfer to weapons.

In Baghdad, Tariq Aziz, the Deputy Prime Minister, said Iraqi scientists had experimented with VX but were un-

able to turn it into a weapon. In a letter to the Security Council he said that 1.7 tons had been produced, but it was not weapons grade.

Richard Butler, the Unscorn chairman, is scheduled to report his complete findings to the council today. The leak to *The Washington Post* from the Iraqi National Congress, the main Iraqi opposition in exile, created a predicament for Unscorn, which has tried to keep its operations secret in advance of UN hearings. There were

fears yesterday that the leak may undermine attempts to take a harsh line against Iraq if France, Russia and China — Baghdad's key supporters in New York — see the leak as part of a United States strategy.

After word of the findings started circulating on Capitol Hill last week, leading Republicans drafted a critical letter to President Clinton demanding to know whether he would support Mr Butler in any confrontation with Baghdad. Senator Trent Lott, the Repub-

lican majority leader who was one of four signatories, was deeply disturbed by reports that the Administration had failed to act on the new VX information. He threatened to use the issue of support for Mr Butler as a political lever at confirmation hearings for Richard Holbrooke, the President's nominee for Ambassador to the United Nations.

At the State Department, Jamie Rubin, the spokesman, offered strong support to Unscorn and Mr Butler. "It appears to be another case of

Unscorn having overcome Iraq's deceit... it demonstrates how important it is for sanctions to remain in place until Iraq co-operates."

Jerusalem: Syria will soon be in a position to produce VX-type nerve gases, Haaretz reported yesterday, quoting an unidentified top Israeli military intelligence officer's evidence to the parliamentary committee for foreign and defence affairs. But the officer added that "there are no concrete signs that they [Syria] are preparing for war". (AFP)

Voter apathy spells Japan crisis

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

THE opposition party leader Naoto Kan, the man most Japanese would like to see as their Prime Minister, said yesterday that widespread voter apathy and the low turnout expected in next month's Upper House election amounted to a democratic crisis.

Mr Kan, leader of the Democratic Party of Japan, appealed to voters to turn out on July 12 amid increasing public scepticism about the ability of politicians to pull the nation out of its economic slump.

"A crisis in democracy? I believe it is," Mr Kan said at a news conference. "Only a small proportion of the electorate bothers to vote, to register their views."

Political experts are predicting a turnout of about 40 per cent or less and all political parties including the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, have expressed concern that many voters may stay at home on election day.

Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, has staked his future on the Upper House election, campaigning on the theme "Trust Me. Trust the LDP".

Although the contest for the less powerful chamber of parliament cannot directly change the Government, or dislodge Mr Hashimoto, it will be seen as a referendum on the Prime Minister's handling of the economy in the country's worst crisis since the war. It will also be seen as a vote on the need for political change after decades of domination by the LDP.

The key issue is the poor state of the economy, which has pushed the unemployment rate to a record 4.1 per cent as emergency measures fail to produce visible results.

Mr Kan promised that his party would introduce permanent tax cuts worth £26 billion compared with the £17 billion in temporary tax cuts included in the government package of measures to revive the economy.

Mr Kan is highly popular and has been the public's top choice as the next Prime Minister in several opinion surveys. In the latest poll, published on Monday, asking people whom they most wished to see as the next Prime Minister, Mr Kan emerged as the favourite, with 20.4 per cent of the vote.

Mr Hashimoto was the first choice of 6.9 per cent, taking third place behind Takako Doi, Social Democratic Party leader, who had 9.7 per cent.

McDonald's ousts Stalin as China shows changing face to US leader

AS Richard Nixon's limousine sped across Tiananmen Square on his ground-breaking visit to China in February 1972, he could hardly have missed a 30ft high portrait of Stalin.

If President Clinton glances in the same direction when his motorcade crosses the square on its way to the same state guest house on Friday, he will see the McDonald's arches. Stalin is long gone.

Nixon had been formally greeted by Zhou Enlai, the Prime Minister, at an airport welcoming ceremony. As a Reuters correspondent recently arrived in China, I was able to watch the famous handshake only from the window of the airport, all the time being harassed by Chinese security men.

The arrival was deemed a bilateral affair so reporters from third countries were

James Pringle, who covered the 1972 Nixon trip, looks at Beijing in advance of the Clinton visit

officially excluded — though I was able to see the icy reception Nixon received. I wrote then that if the official welcome had been one degree cooler it would have been seen as insulting to Nixon.

Ordinary people were kept off the streets and only Communist Party cadres lined the roads at 30-yard intervals,



Zhou Enlai, then China's Prime Minister, and Richard Nixon at a Shanghai banquet during the US President's ground-breaking 1972 visit

affecting indifference to the Nixon entourage. The atmosphere thawed only when Nixon was taken to see the ailing Chairman Mao at his home near the Forbidden City and at the state banquet, to which the handful of non-American resident correspondents were invited. With disbelief, we heard the central

band of the Red Army play *Home on the Range*. Much remains the same. When he strode on the Bund in Shanghai last year, Vice-President Al Gore thought he was meeting ordinary Shanghai people. In fact, they were Communist cadres with their families, placed there after security police cleared the walkway.

Yet in 1972 Nixon would never have been able to address students as Mr Clinton will do next Monday at Beijing University.

"There will be little spontaneity, but at the same time people are not controlled nowadays in the same way as when everything was minutely choreographed," a Western diplomat said yesterday.

In 1972, human rights was not an issue and pro-democracy campaigners were non-existent. The "broad masses" of the people were deemed to share "an unbounded love for their Great Leader Chairman Mao".

Mr Clinton will be formally welcomed by President Jiang Zemin at Tiananmen Square, scene of the June 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators, and the choice of venue has caused anger in the US Congress.

Yet when Nixon was here, millions of Chinese were in labour camps, including some fallen leaders. Millions more were hungry as a result of failed agricultural policies. "Human rights were not a matter of international currency at that stage," an envoy said.

Fewer languish in the Chinese gulag these days but fallen leaders of the present regime, like Zhao Ziyang, the former Communist Party chief, are still "non persons". A group of 16 dissidents appealed to Mr Clinton yesterday to ask to see Mr Zhao, who was toppled in 1989 for showing sympathy for the Tiananmen students. He still lives under house arrest in central Beijing and security at his home has recently been tightened.

Though the Communist

Party will not countenance any challenge to one-party rule, social change has been dramatic. The press is freer and exposes official corruption at the provincial level though expressing no opposition to party control.

In other respects, however, the China that Mr Clinton will see still resembles the one that Nixon reopened contact with after 22 years of US attempts to isolate Beijing. This is particularly true on international issues. Nixon's foreign policy talks with the Chinese leadership centred first on the Taiwan question but also on the Korean peninsula and the need to safeguard peace and stability there, the wars in Vietnam and Cambodia, and the India-Pakistan dispute over Kashmir.

Apart from the Vietnam conflict, which ended with North Vietnam's victory in 1975, these same foreign policy issues still top the agenda in talks which Mr Clinton begins with Mr Jiang on Saturday. "The big central issues still relate to how China fits into the world," a Western diplomat said.

One change is the disappearance of the Soviet Union, regarded as a foe in the early 1970s by both the US and China and therefore a catalyst in their thawing relations.

Culturally in China, things seem very different. When Nixon was here, the roly-poly female attendants at the state guest house seemed sexless in pigtailed and khaki Mao suits. The female attendants that Mr Clinton will see, chosen for their beauty, are tall, slim and beguiling with fashionable hairstyles and *cheongsams* cut to the thigh.

Nixon was taken to see *Red Detachment of Women*, a revolutionary ballet about people's militias struggling with Chinese nationalist reactionaries. Mao's sour-faced wife, the late Jiang Qing, hosted Nixon at a rather grubby theatre for the performance, and he smiled as she told him that the face on a target that the people's heroes were firing at was that of Chiang Kai-shek, the Taiwanese leader and America's friend.

Nowadays, the movie *Titanic* has been seen by millions of Chinese and it is impossible to escape its theme tune anywhere in China — even in the Foreign Ministry's briefing room. In Nixon's time, *The East is Red* and *Chairman Mao is the Bright Red Sun in our Hearts* were still top of the pops.

International youth culture — in effect American culture — has taken over China. Michael Jordan is a youth icon. Tight T-shirts, jeans, baseball caps and trainers are de rigueur for the young. Discos, bars and nightclubs abound, and young

CLINTON PROTEST OVER VISA DENIAL

Washington: President Clinton, criticising the Chinese Government before his visit to Beijing today, protested last night against Beijing's decision to deny visas to three reporters who planned to cover the trip (Tom Rhodes writes).

"It is a highly objectionable decision," the President said. "We will protest it. We hope they will reconsider it." Visas for the three reporters, who work for Radio Free

Asia, a network that broadcasts to China and is financed by the US Government, were withdrawn without the knowledge of the White House.

Mr Clinton said the decision was depriving China of credit it otherwise would have got for giving more visas to a more diverse group of journalists and allowing in more different kinds of people than it had ever done before.

ladies of the night are now almost as common as Red Guards once were.

Political slogans like "Serve The People" and "Down with American Imperialism and all its running dogs" have given way to poster boards and jingles for consumer goods.

"You let us rule you and we will let you get rich," is the pact the Communist Party has made with the people, though this is fraying at the edges as the economy falters in this authoritarian, but not now totalitarian, state.

In one respect, China is less open now than then. China admitted right-wing American journalists such as William F. Buckley to cover Nixon's visit. Now, the Chinese have excluded three journalists from Radio Free Asia, which Beijing sees as hostile, from covering the Clinton visit.

Beijing man, page 20



Mao: visit by Nixon marked start of thaw

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Arafat police 'beat mothers of prisoners'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A LEADING Palestinian human rights group based in the Gaza Strip claimed yesterday that Yasser Arafat's Palestinian police beat mothers of prisoners held by Israel when the women went to the self-rule authorities to seek financial support.

The allegations were on a growing list of charges of human rights abuses made by ordinary Palestinians against Mr Arafat's 30,000-strong police force. Claims of torture in Palestinian jails and detention centres have become commonplace in recent months.

"Shahira Abu al-Naja, mother of prisoner Haitham al-Naja who is serving a 15-year sentence in Israel's Nafha prison, said in an affidavit that

her right arm was broken after a policeman hit her with a rifle," the group said about an alleged incident at the Palestinian Finance Ministry on June 15.

In a statement the human rights group said that several of Mr Arafat's police officers also attacked another Arab woman, who fainted. "When she came round, she found herself on the upper floor of the ministry where another policeman attacked her using his hands and his feet," the statement released to local journalists added.

About 60 women had gone to the ministry to ask Muhammad al-Nashashibi, the Finance Minister and a close associate of Mr Arafat, to help

them to obtain stipends as the mothers of prisoners.

"The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights calls upon the Palestinian Authority to open an investigation into these incidents and to take legal measures against the persons involved," the statement concluded.

A senior Palestinian official denied the charges of brutality, saying that the incidents had never happened.

Western diplomats, increasingly concerned about the reports of physical abuse against Palestinians by their own police force and the various intelligence agencies that operate alongside it, said that they were investigating whether there was any connection between the controversial report and the detention of Dr Maqadmeh, a leading member of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights.

The Palestinian press reported yesterday that the centre had said the Palestinian Attorney-General, appointed by Mr Arafat, had refused a petition submitted by Palestinian human rights campaigners for his release.

Last Saturday, the Palestinian High Court refused to accept a petition submitted by Dr Maqadmeh's lawyers seeking an explanation for his arrest.

Demolitions fuel anger

Jerusalem: The Palestine Liberation Organisation has complained to the United Nations Security Council about Israel's demolition of Palestinian homes, a Palestinian legislator said yesterday. Another house and four Beduin shacks in the West Bank were destroyed as he spoke.

Israel routinely demolishes Palestinian homes built without permission in Jerusalem and areas of the West Bank still under Israeli control. The

Palestinians say Israel rarely grants them construction permits, forcing expanding families to build illegally. Israel said the homes torn down yesterday were too close to an Israeli army base, but the Beduin there vowed to remain.

Palestinians say the demolitions are part of a deliberate campaign by Israel to restrict Palestinian expansion in the West Bank in advance of a final border settlement. (AP)

Widow breaks down testifying about suspicious Machel crash

FROM REUTERS IN JOHANNESBURG

GRACA MACHEL, the widow of Samora Machel, was overcome yesterday as she told a South African inquiry about the late Mozambican President's death in a suspicious plane crash in 1986, officials said.

Mrs Machel, now the companion of President Mandela of South Africa, gave evidence at a closed session of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission here. Her husband, strongly opposed to the then white minority regime in Pretoria, died with 33 other people when his plane crashed as it crossed South Africa in 1986 in what the apartheid authorities said was an accident.

Mr Mandela has said he does not believe the findings of the apartheid-era inquiry and has vowed to uncover the facts. The commission's findings are to be included in its final report, which must be handed to Mr Mandela by the end of October.

Officials listening to Mrs



Graca Machel: wants to publicise her findings

Machel's testimony said she was eloquent and kept her composure for much of the morning but was unable to restrain her emotions at one point. "Mrs Machel broke down a bit but she is all right now," an official said. "On the whole she is composed and giving us all the details she has. Mrs Machel clearly has very vivid recollections."

Mrs Machel, who over the past decade has launched her own inquiries into her hus-

band's death, resumed her testimony after a brief adjournment. Dumisa Nisebeza, the commission's head of investigations, said that Mrs Machel planned to give details of her own findings.

Earlier this month, the commission held a closed inquiry into the role of the apartheid state's defence force in the crash, hearing evidence from a former Mozambican official and members of the former South African Defence Force. Mr Nisebeza said last month he had received new evidence linking the SADF to the crash on October 19, 1986.

Mozambique has never accepted the conclusions of a South African inquiry held by the former white Government, which concluded that the crash was caused by pilot error. That inquiry allegedly ignored evidence that Machel's Soviet-built Tupolev jet, flying over South Africa to Mozambique, was diverted from its flight path by a decoy radio beacon transmitting on the same frequency as that of Maputo airport.



The human footprints, made 117,000 years ago and the oldest ever to be found

New safety steps for the oldest footprints

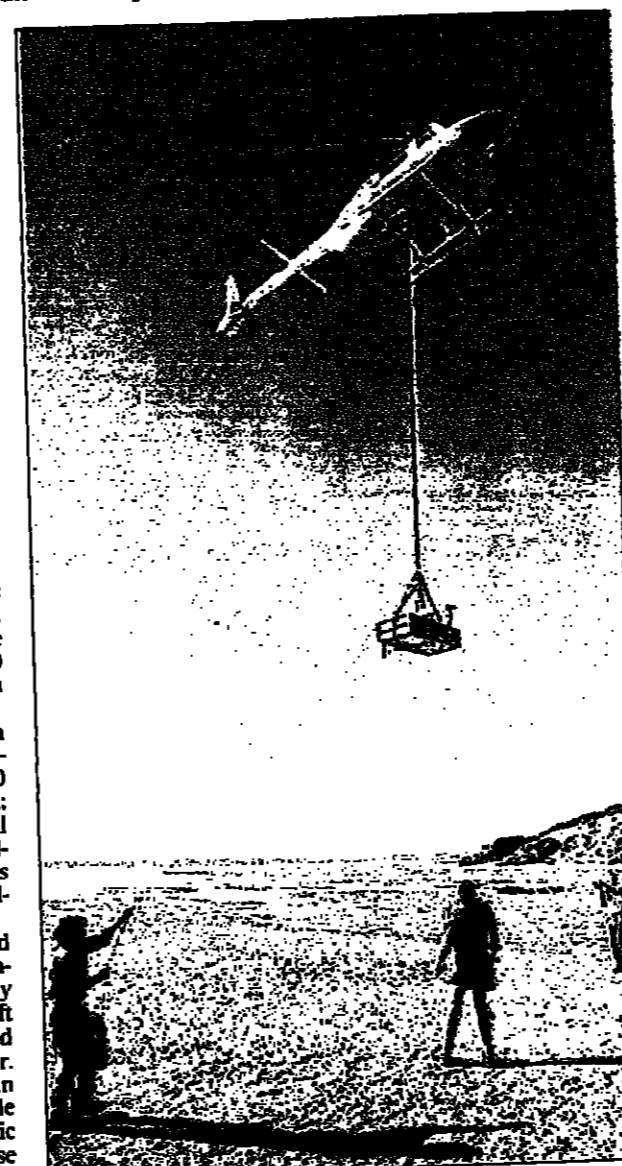
By EMMA THOMASSON

THE world's oldest known human footprints are in danger from tourists and coastal erosion — were airlifted to safety yesterday by South African geologists.

"If the human beings don't get the footprints, the waves will," Dave Roberts said as a helicopter lifted a box constructed around the prints from the Langebaan lagoon. Experts believe the three prints were made 117,000 years ago by a 5ft 3in woman walking in wet sand.

Today's humans have a more destructive way of leaving their mark at the site, 60 miles north of Cape Town: names have been carved all over the crumbling sandstone. Picnicking tourists have also been seen standing inside the prints.

Mr Roberts, who found the fossils in 1995 but announced his discovery only last year, said that the soft rock had been impregnated with resin to bind it together. One theory says all human life came from a female ancestor known as "genetic Eve". Experts say these prints were made at the right time and place to fit her profile. (Reuters)



Langebaan's fossils take flight from the perils of the coast for the safety of a Cape Town museum

British diver dies on Barrier Reef

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A BRITISH woman has drowned on Australia's Great Barrier Reef amid growing concern about diving safety in the area.

Rowena Sines, a mother of two, was the fifth person to die while scuba diving off Queensland this year.

Mrs Sines, 46, who emigrated to Australia from her home on the Isle of Wight 13 years ago, vanished after being separated from her dive boat by a strong current on Wilson Reef about 230 miles north of Cairns. She had been diving in an area known as Barney's Rubble with two men.

One of them, a Swiss tourist, indicated he was suffering from ear problems and wanted to return to the surface. They then found the current had dragged them too far from their boat to be able to swim back. Mrs Sines began swimming away from the men and that was the last time she was seen alive, a police spokesman said.

The crew of the dive boat searched the area when they noticed the three were missing but were unable to find them. An air search later located the two men unharmed about seven miles from the dive site. Mrs Sines's body was found about half-a-mile away from the men.

A spokesman for Cairns water police said there was no suggestion that the dive boat operators had neglected their duty. Mrs Sines's daughter, Marianne, 23, who was also on the trip, was recovering from her ordeal in Cairns yesterday. The dead woman, who took up scuba diving about two years ago, lived in the Sydney suburb of Beacon Hill.

The spate of deaths off the north Queensland coast has led to calls for increased vigilance among commercial dive boat operators. Queensland is currently reviewing standards for diving and snorkelling in the area.

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Very Gallic charm to bridge the culture gap

French envoy Jean Guéguinou, is leaving London for Rome. Interview by Valerie Grove

Tonight, far from Coupe du Monde hooliganism, the French Ambassador in London hosts an amicable Anglo-French encounter. With the actress Jeanne Moreau as hostess, he will present the French Theatre Season awards, worth up to £30,000 each, to British theatre companies.

It is a valedictory occasion, since we shortly bid adieu to Jean Guéguinou, the bachelor ambassador who has wooed London with his warm Gallic charm in his five years here, years embracing the opening of the Channel Tunnel (M Guéguinou was there) and the death of Diana, Princess of Wales (he was in Paris that weekend). His next and last post will be in Rome, exactly what he wanted.

We sit in the window of his drawing room ("My Paris apartment in the Avenue Victor Hugo would fit in this room") while a butler brings croissants on a silver salver. When he arrived in London in December 1993, M Guéguinou's residence had been destroyed by fire, so he had to oversee the final touches to the restoration. Then he at once set out to bridge the gulf between French and English culture through hospitality. "An embassy for me," he says, "is a place where people can meet." (The only envoy of recent years whose hospitality

was comparable was Raymond Seitz, the American Ambassador.) He brought together Tony Blair, not yet Prime Minister, and President Chirac of France. Peter Mandelson, now Minister without Portfolio, recalls: "Both insisted on speaking in the other's language, so there was a sort of standoff until Blair's tender years deferred to Chirac's seniority, and they spoke English."

M Guéguinou makes friends easily. He met Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Chancellor of Oxford University, at the home of Sir Edward Heath, the former Tory Prime Minister, in Salisbury's Cathedral Close. Next day he wrote to congratulate him on his Order of Merit. Lord Jenkins replied inviting him to his house in Oxfordshire "despite the fact that we don't have a cathedral in our garden".

He can also tell you exactly which British hosts keep good cellars with fine claret. "I have been entertained in many interesting houses," says M Guéguinou, "but perhaps the most impressive was Chatsworth (home of the Duke of Devonshire)."

The ambassador has also joined Gillian Shephard, now Shadow Environment Secretary, in Norfolk for a weekend of constituency rounds. He and Mrs Shephard — "she speaks beautiful French" — got together on holiday in



Jean Guéguinou: he can tell you which British hosts keep good cellars with fine claret

Brittany, where both go every year. Mrs Shephard met Jeanne-Rose, the ambassador's mother, a *pharmaciennne* who only retired at 77 and is the epitome of Parisian chic. "Most French official people behave according to a rigid formal code," says Mrs Shephard, "but Jean's expansive spirit escaped those trammels. That's what made him so popular here." No wonder there is a chorus of dismay at his departure: "It's unusual to

have unguarded conversations with someone whose profession is diplomacy," says one acquaintance. "The most important event for the relationship between our two countries," M Guéguinou says, "was the opening of the Tunnel. It makes a huge difference when people can say 'I was in Paris last week', or 'I'm off to Paris tomorrow' quite casually. By 2007, the two most important capitals in Europe will be only two and a half hours apart. There will be no need to organise art exhibitions in both capitals. Already, French people would come for the day to see the Bonnard exhibition at the Tate, going back the same evening."

M Guéguinou first came to London as Second Secretary in 1969, aged 27. One of his earliest duties was to entertain de Gaulle, who had suddenly resigned as President of France and decided to go to Ireland.

Consternation: the French Embassy in Dublin was tiny, the trains were not working, and de Gaulle's proxy vote in the French election had to be fetched personally in the diplomatic bag. "So I had dinner alone in Killarney with Charles de Gaulle and his wife. That gave me a page of my memories. He was rather grandfatherly, and each time my glass was *diminué un peu*, he had it filled up."

Neil MacGregor, director of the National Gallery, is a close friend. He says M Guéguinou reinvented the role of ambassador, assembling an expert *mélange* of art and history for the Poussin exhibition opening. "He was thrilled that Yves Saint Laurent funded the restoration of our French rooms, much to the chagrin of the French museum curators."

When Holbein's *The Ambassadors* was restored, Mr MacGregor arranged a photocall for M Guéguinou alongside the painting, which includes his predecessor of 450 years ago. Chateaubriand, his hero, hangs in the residence. "I am following him," he says, "since he also served in London, Jerusalem, Prague and Rome."

At 56 he still has a boyish enthusiasm for his job. "The important thing when giving a speech here is to make jokes, especially at memorial services," he says. "Making jokes in church is an English speciality. That is astonishing for the French, but I admire it."

The significance of keeping your own name

Bel Mooney on the outdated convention that dictates how we view married women

IT IS not a story of deep social or political import, but this is how it began. I received an invitation, in the name you see on this article, to the annual Authors of the Year reception at the London bookshop Hatchards. A week later, my husband casually remarked that he would be going to a party that evening, at Hatchards. "Me, too," I said. We are an independent pair.

In the event, feeling ill, he appeared but briefly at the party, which was stuffed with luminaries. Just before we left, a couple of photographers begged us to pause and we obliged, not knowing or caring where the snap would appear. And there it was in *Hello!* magazine, with the caption "Mr and Mrs Jonathan Dimbleby".

My own slight frisson of irritation was as nothing compared with our 18-year-old daughter's howl of fury. She has developed an acutely sensitive feminist take on such matters, and objects to her mother's career being excised at a stroke. I had, to adapt Congreve, "dwindled into a wife".

The issue of what to call a married woman who uses her maiden name professionally sometimes bothers people. For me, the question is relatively simple. Privately, I like being married and, as half of a partnership, choose to have that name on my cheques. Accompanying my husband, I might well hold out my hand saying "I'm Jonathan's wife, Bel", if it doesn't feel particularly important for me to be "me".

On parents' evenings, of course, I was "Mrs Dimbleby", because that was why I was there. My private identity is wrapped up with my family and I am proud of that. And it seems tedious to me to saddle your children with your surname as well as your married name in the American fashion, since this can result in impossibly convoluted double and triple-barrelled names.

Yet my public persona is different. Once, some years ago, I found that my place

card at a dinner called me "Mrs Jonathan Dimbleby". I wrote my own name on the other side, whereupon the man next to me said that he was glad I had done that, because he admired my work and did not realise I was married, let alone to whom.

Leaving principle aside, it seems a matter of simple information to use the name by which someone might be known. When a woman chooses to use her married name, then that is fine. But there are problems when a woman divorces and is left bearing the name of a man that she no longer loves.



"Mr and Mrs Dimbleby"

A close friend was leaving marriage number two when I counselled a return to her maiden name. She took my advice, although significantly one or two of her male bosses shook their heads and murmured that it might cause confusion. I retorted that such men think it perfectly acceptable when women in their departments marry and change their names. My friend took my advice and reverted to her own name — which is just as well, since she is now married to a third husband.

There is a fascinating difference of style to be detected in the name a well-known woman will choose to use. On my mantelpiece are three invitations to parties. Two are to "Jonathan and Bel". The last card is to "Mr and Mrs Jonathan Dimbleby". It is technically correct, but it raises a smile for its quaint conservatism. I beat no gong for retaining your maiden name, unless you want to or there is a reason, such as a separate career. But in 1998, what else does the old-fashioned adoption of the Mrs Peter X name-form imply, but an acceptance of a view of marriage which has no place whatsoever in the modern world?

The statement with which I began this article is, in fact, untrue, for the issue does have social and political implications. In his book *The Family, Sex and Marriage in England, 1500-1800*, Professor Lawrence Stone says: "Modes of address are significant indicators of social realities." The Miltonic view of marriage — "he for God only, she for God in him" — found its social expression in the laws which fused husband and wife into one person — the husband. The woman was "the weaker vessel", with no property rights of her own.

Defoe's *Roxana* sums up the situation: "The very nature of the marriage contract was ... nothing but giving up liberty, estate, authority and everything to a man, and the woman was indeed a mere woman ever after — that is to say, a slave." As late as 1869 John Stuart Mill described marriage thus: "The absorption of all rights, all property, as well as all freedom of action is complete. The two are called 'one person in the law' for the purpose of inferring that whatever is hers is his."

It is that outmoded concept which lies behind the "Mrs and Mrs John Thomas" form. As such it has no place in a society which no longer regards wives as their husbands' property. Thank God we live in a world where Cherie Booth, QC, may be called Cherie Blair when appropriate, but "Mrs Tony" would be inconceivable and insulting — and as ludicrous as my husband being called "Mr Bel Mooney".

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CHANGING TIMES

A generation born to conform

Teenagers want fidelity and a happy marriage. Celia Brayfield says they are making a plea for help

The coolest kids in Europe share a single ambition: they want to get married, have children and live happily ever after. They know it means putting their children first, sticking with their spouses even if they fall out of love, and protecting their families from the evils of infidelity and materialistic culture.

These are the babies who were thrown out with the bathwater in the days of sexual liberation and personal fulfilment. Most of them are the children of broken homes. Now they are fighting their way back to the family values which their parents rejected. This news comes from *Hopes and Fears: Young European Opinion Leaders*, the report of a new study from GfK, a British research team that set out to find the answer to the modern riddle: what will today's youth really, really want tomorrow?

Poignantly, one of the clearest answers is that they want to have happy families. The pain of young people who felt negated and abandoned while their parents claimed their rights to self-fulfilment echoed across every country in Europe. Even in the most liberal countries, there was condemnation for divorce, demands that parents should keep their marriage vows, and admiration for stable couples.

The picture is of a generation traumatised by the "me-first" ethics of its parents. Today's teenagers are the tragic heirs of all the Eighties' ideologies that urged their parents to discover themselves, get their needs met, and find the love they wanted. This, our psychiatrists assured us, was the route to emotional health. I myself used to see a therapist who would shake her head when I rejected a course of action because it might not be the best thing for my child. There seemed to be a straight choice — betray my child emotionally or be unhappy; I picked the second option. This therapist was highly respected, her appointment diary stuffed with the names of movers and shakers and politicians.

We were taught that selfishness was sick, but this lesson rested on the assumption that our children had no right to special consideration from their parents. Presumably these experts expected our kids to love, care for and educate themselves spontaneously.

Creed, on the other hand, was good according to the official and popular wisdom of the Thatcher years. When Norman Tebbit made his recommendation that the un-



Looking ahead: teenagers intend to be in control of their own destinies. They are passionately opposed to the modern corporate culture

employed should get on their bikes and look for work. I wonder if he realised that he was inviting those men to leave their families behind.

Fathers were conspicuous by their absence in the lives of all the teenagers in the survey. "I'd have liked to have had a father," was the opinion of many respondents. In Britain, where half our run-away fathers do not bother to see their families, the Government is planning to create an Institute for Family Policy to slap official Elstoplast over our children's emotional wounds.

Among the middle classes, the quality of our children's lives has not been enhanced by the pressures on parents in high-stress professions. In the days when the concept of quality time first emerged, circa 1982, I remember seeing a TV producer on location dial home on her mobile phone to read her son a bedtime story.

Around this time, two of my friends, a senior consultant and his wife, discovered that the retarded language of their youngest child was largely because their household was so hectic that there was no

time for anyone to talk to him properly. Today I know parents who have no problem with their children getting through A levels on Prozac. It is sad that we need a market research survey to tell us that we have gone wrong.

Quality time cannot be time-managed. Children cannot use

"Almost no one was willing to work for a company," said Steven Jagger, GfK's managing director. "They intended to be self-employed and in control of their own destiny. They were drawn to professions with human interaction."

Most of these young people, who vowed to put their families first,

who has children aged 17 and 13. This is not comfortable reading for the generation that invented youth culture, the baby-boomers born after the Second World War. The more thoughtful of us have been waiting for this ever since we stormed out of our homes shouting: "You just don't understand!"

Now we find our own teenagers as scary as our own parents once found us because they are questioning our values and the moral pendulum is swinging back towards the traditions we overturned. We just don't understand.

But, perhaps, if we discover how the findings were collected, enlightenment might begin. The researchers devised this survey after a study of 3,000 European teens raised more questions than it answered.

So more than 500 of the coolest kids between the ages of 14 and 20 were identified by their peers and asked to take part in group discussions. The sessions took place in the coolest clubs in each town and were directed by specially trained moderators of whom the oldest was 24. Coolness is clearly a relative term in the new Europe. But what our children are saying is simply: "What about us?"

'What we see is a generation that is traumatised by the me-first ethics of its parents'

were themselves from broken homes. One English girl said she hardly knew anyone whose parents were still together, but although Britain has the least stable families in Europe, this trend was continent-wide. "Almost everyone we talked to was not living in a traditional family," says Mr Jagger.

Their non-traditional backgrounds had made them much more self-reliant, self-confident and outward looking," says Mr Jagger.



Happy ending? P.W. Botha and his new wife, Barbara

The ex-President and his 'young' bride

P.W. Botha is just one of South Africa's leaders to have fallen for women many years their junior. Ray Kennedy reports

The veteran former MP, Helen Suzman, who for years was the sole voice of opposition to apartheid in the South African Parliament, heard with a measure of concern the news yesterday that ex-President P.W. Botha had married a woman 25 years his junior.

Her disquiet was not for the man who vented his scorn and contempt as she confronted him across parliamentary benches, but for his bride. "I wish her the very best of luck. I just hope he doesn't start wagging his finger in her face as he did so often to me," she says.

Of all apartheid's rulers, the antagonism was most severe between Mr Botha, the "Groot Krokodil" whose dictatorial finger-wagging was his political trademark, and Mrs Suzman, who was appointed honorary DBE by the Queen in 1989. When Hendrik Verwoerd, the father of apartheid, was assassinat-

ed in 1966, Mr Botha rushed to where she was sitting and accused her, as a liberal, of being responsible.

So it is hardly surprising that 81-year-old Mrs Suzman finds it difficult to understand what appeal Mr Botha, 82, has for women much younger than he is. "I suppose he is fairly comfortably off with his generous state pension," she says.

Mr Botha married Barbara Robertson, 57, a divorced mother of two, at his home in Wilderness on the Cape coast on Monday. "It was a nice, informal wedding — very romantic," says one of the 14 guests at the ceremony performed by a Dutch Reformed Church minister. "I had tears in my eyes."

Just over a month ago, Mr Botha broke off his engage-

ment to Reinette de Water Naude, a 47-year-old widow he began courting only weeks after the death of Elize, his wife of 54 years, in May of last year.

She still wears the diamond-and-emerald ring that Mr Botha gave her and, in a magazine interview published last week, she spoke of his loneliness in his well-guarded home as he contemplates the outcome of his trial for refusing to appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

She describes their first kiss and Mr Botha asking her if she was "just a little bit in love with him". But she adds: "We never shared a room. We never had an intimate relationship."

South Africa's senior politicians appear to have some

sort of attraction for younger women. President Mandela, who will be 80 on July 18, was 40 and separated from his wife and mother of their three children when he married a glamorous 24-year-old Winnie in 1958. Her father warned her that she was marrying the struggle and not the man.

During their acrimonious divorce in 1995 after 37 years of marriage — of which Mr Mandela spent 27 in prison — he, too, spoke of his loneliness. Since his release in 1990, he said, she had never entered his bedroom when he was awake. "I was the loneliest man during the period I stayed with her," he told the court.

He clearly revels though in the company of pretty young women. The Spice Girls were

entertained royally at his official residence in Cape Town during a recent visit to South Africa, and Naomi Campbell, the supermodel, has been bestowed with the title of "honorary granddaughter". During his state visit to Britain in 1996, Mr Mandela was accompanied by Rochelle Mitana, 25, a member of his own clan.

But for more than a year his companion has been Graca Machel, 52, the widow of Samora Machel, the late President of Mozambique. They walk around like lovers half their age hand in hand, but deftly deflect any questions about whether they will marry, something that prompts a priestly frown from Desmond Tutu, the former Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town. Political success, of course,

is often a matter of careful timing but F.W. de Klerk, 62, who ousted P.W. Botha as President and leader of the National Party in 1989, apparently forgot that when he announced earlier this year that he was divorcing his wife Marika, 62, after 39 years of marriage. He plans to marry Elita Georgiadis, 45, the wife of Tony Georgiadis, a Greek shipping magnate who lives in London.

Their affair had been discovered by her husband while both couples were on a Mediterranean cruise four years ago.

Although Mr de Klerk said that they had stopped seeing each other for two years in an attempt to rebuild their marriage, reconciliation had become impossible. Mr de Klerk's associates were not surprised by his decision but they were astonished at the moment he chose to do it. He made his announcement on St Valentine's Day.

TEENAGERS ON WORKING MOTHERS



FRANCESCA ALBERRY, 16, lives in West London and has an elder sister. They have been brought up by their mother since her divorce.

"My mother did not work when my sister and I were younger. She looked after us while my father worked full-time. I always felt fortunate that she did not work, but I think now that, had she worked, it would not have changed our relationship."

"When my sister and I reached senior school, my mother began to work full-time. We soon adjusted and were happy for her success selling antiques. I think that children with working parents are more independent, and more appreciative of time with their parents."

"I intend to have a career, and a family, although I imagine that it is difficult to strike a happy balance."

"I love and admire my mother. If I can emulate her example with my children then I will be very happy."



RYAN RABER is 14 and lives near Brighton. His father is a financial adviser. His mother has always been at home to look after Ryan and his two sisters.

"I would not have wanted my mother to go out to work — we would have been deprived of her influence, love and support."

"It may seem unfair, but children accept that fathers can be away at work while they expect mothers to stay at home."

"When I get married, I would be quite happy for my wife to have a part-time job, perhaps as a teacher. But I would not let her work full-time. I want to be a lawyer and support the family. That is the man's role."

"Stable family life is important for the children. But you must find a balance that allows a mother to have a life outside the home."

"I want the kind of relationship my parents have. They are happy and have made us children happy too."

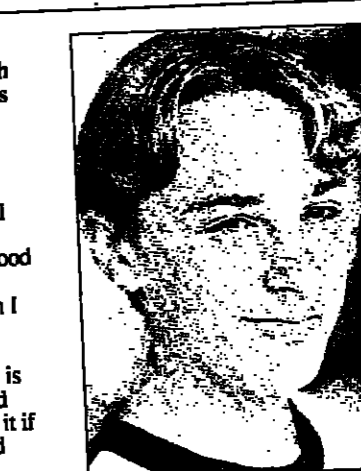
OLIVER DANCE is 15 and lives outside Brighton. Both parents work — his father is a company executive, his mother manages a garden centre.

"I do not mind that she works, well, not really. But I would be happier if the job was part-time. We have a good relationship, but I do not want my wife to work when I have a family."

"My father works more hours than my mother and is often abroad. I am resigned to that but I would not like it if my mother worked as hard — she is needed at home."

"About three years ago, my mother started to work at weekends and was gone from nine in the morning until six at night. I did not like that at all."

"During the week while I was at school, it was OK that she was at work. But on



Saturday and Sunday I wanted her at home.

"I will not have my children brought up by a nanny, as I was. I got on well with her but I would rather that whoever I marry was at home for the family."

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Clinton and the teddy bears' picnic

Bronwen Maddox on a symbolic start to the President's China trip

Yesterday morning in Washington, I and a thousand others were packing to accompany Bill Clinton on his nine days in China. The tarmac of Andrews Air Force Base, sweating in the damp heat, turned into a bazaar of satellite phones and 12-packs of Diet Coke. The assembling retinue, sidestepping the sniffer dogs, observed the coded uniform of American professionals: beige suits if hailing from Washington, black from New York, cream from Los Angeles; two stone of extra body weight from any other city.

Hillary and Chelsea are coming, too; then there are a dozen members of the Cabinet and Congress, 250 advisers and White House staff, 350 soldiers and Secret Service agents, and 400 journalists. Mr Clinton is bringing ten of his own armoured limousines, his own bottled tap water, and his bullet-proof lectern adorned with the American eagle. It will take Air Force One, three other passenger planes and several C141 military transport planes to get us there.

The Chinese, I gather, are awaiting this caravan with appalled amusement. But at home, the extravagance of the trip, the first by an American President since George Bush in 1989, has put the capstone on a "Great Wall of Criticism" of Mr Clinton's policy towards China. His tactics of "engagement" have become a disaster, his accusers say; his visit will give Chinese leaders prestigious photo opportunities, while failing to win any breakthrough on arms proliferation or trade. In hock to his Asian friends who illicitly funnelled cash into the Democratic election campaign, the Chinese laundier has become the Great Appeaser, they claim.

"The symbolism of the trip is a tragedy," says Republican Senator Tim Hutchinson. "It's a terrible image the world is going to see of our President being received at Tiananmen Square."

This fearfulness of China and the visit is absurd. Mr Clinton and President Jiang Zemin both owe much of their support to economic success. Those economic fortunes are increasingly intertwined, to mutual advantage. But there should be no doubt at all who has the upper hand: the leader of the world's greatest economic success story, rather than the head of 1.2 billion mostly very poor people.

True, almost any criticism of Mr Clinton's China policy has home. Engagement isn't so far worked, if measured by its effect on China's attitude to human rights, missile sales, or liberalisation of its markets. Mr Clinton can easily be accused of mercantilism, putting the concerns of trade — and his beloved Commerce Department — above other foreign policy objectives. And whatever he knew about the origins of the cheques flowing into Democratic bank accounts, he courted many of the donors. As Governor of Arkansas, inspired by the Asian

miracle and repelled by old-world Europe, he sought out trade delegations from the new economies, and kept these contacts when he ascended to Washington.

Few would spend much energy trying to defend Mr Clinton's adherence to a coherent set of ideals, however warmly he previously espoused them. But attacks on his visit ignore the fact that America is now in a position to influence China, perhaps more than ever before.

The new weapon, more persuasive than a nuclear arsenal, is the Asian financial crisis, combined with the desperation of Chinese leaders to prevent their economy slowing down. With unemployment already rising as bankrupt state enterprises close down, they fear riots which could dwarf the Tiananmen students' protest marches.

The regional crisis could rapidly worsen if China devalues its currency, the yuan, in the wake of the collapse of the yen, provoking further devaluations across Asia. The Chinese have portrayed their restraint so far as a favour to America, and the \$2 billion the US Treasury spent last week on propping up the yen as the price of that favour.

But China would be far more hurt by a further Asian collapse than would America. Presiding over an economy which shares so many of the structural failings which have brought down his trading partners, Mr Jiang must know that his best hope is that Mr Clinton will be happy to keep balling out the yen.

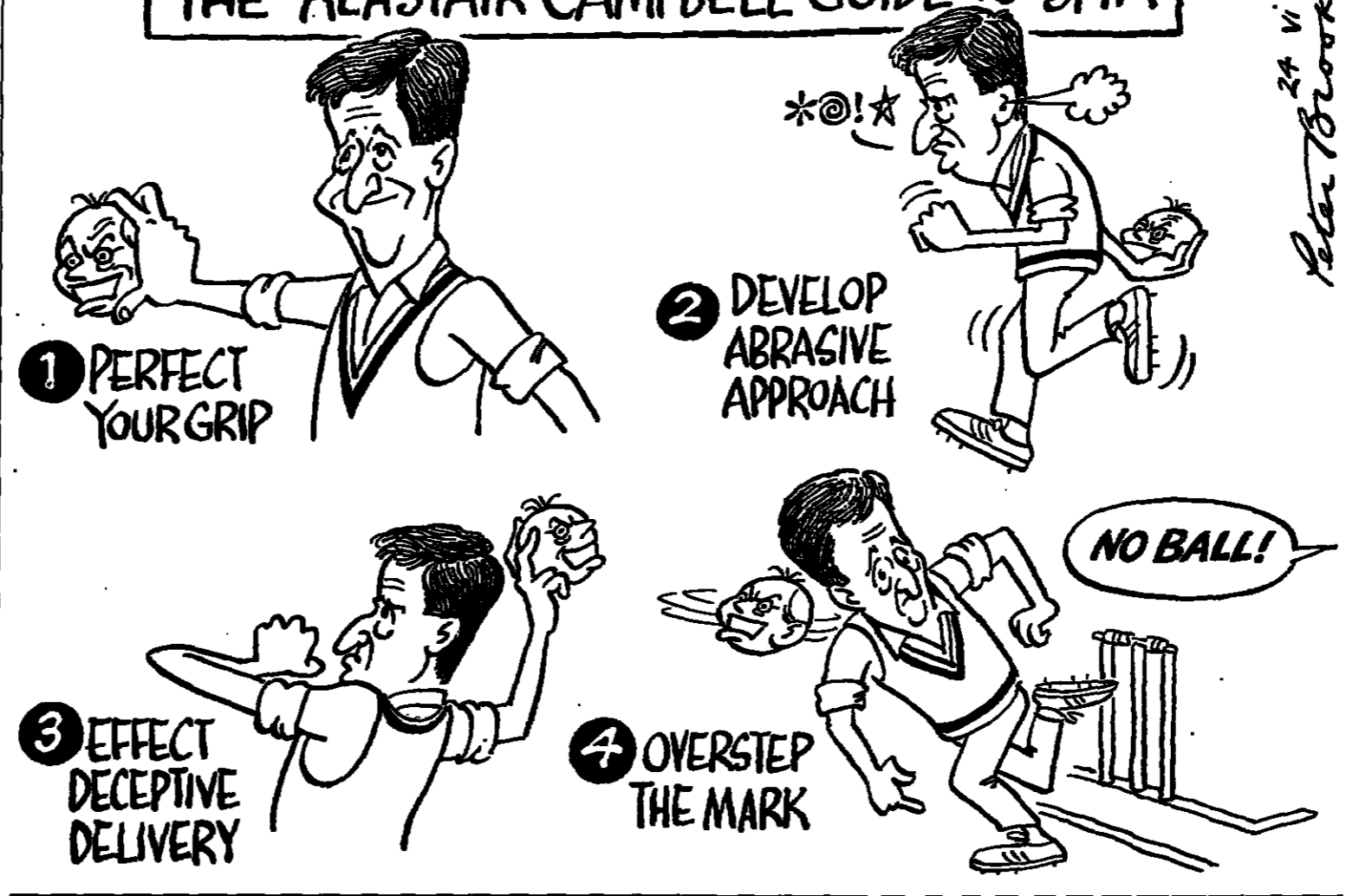
Against that new reality, the American fashion for portraying China as the latest Great Satan is hysterical, a primitive fear that if the Chinese take the photograph of a President, they also take his power.

In the most trivial way, this willingness to demonise China surfaced at the White House summer furlair last Friday. Jauntily sprawling over the lawns, upstaging the delicate Jacqueline Kennedy sculpture garden, the event had the authentic Clinton populist touch. Red and white gingham tablecloths were covered with armfuls of sunflowers and plates of fried chicken, cornbread and chocolate brownies; the President, in golf shirt and cotton slacks, joked with his guests under the coloured lights of the Ferris wheel.

Then it emerged that the stuffed toys awarded as prizes for the rifle ranges were all made in China. What more could you expect from a President who rents out the Lincoln Bedroom, went the gibes.

Those digs miss the point of China's growing economic dependence on America. Sure, the US could "disengage" and send back the teddy bears and tea towels. Yes, it could use its influence to greater effect than in the past. But in clamouring against Mr Clinton's trip, Americans are in danger of missing the substance behind the symbols. In the economic battle, America holds all the weapons.

THE ALASTAIR CAMPBELL GUIDE TO SPIN



Alan Coren



■ The fact is, I can't see any other way to kommunikate

We are in for a somewhat tedious time, you and I. This morning, when I sat down in the attic to cobble my weekly article, desk all cleared up ready, coffee cup at my elbow, fresh packet of cigarettes open beside it. I discovered that the letter, the one between b and d, had ceased to function on my computer keyboard. I tapped it in the normal way, the key descended, but the letter did not come up on the screen. What came up was a blank. It is probably just a bit of muck under the key, I thought. It is making it stikk. All I have to do is unscrew the kasing, blow the muck off, give everything a quikk wipe-over with a piece of kotton-wool soaked in surgical spirit, replace the kasing, and Bob's your uncle. But when I unscrewed it, I discovered that Bob was not my uncle at all. There was no muck in there. Everything was as klean as a whistle.

So I screwed the kasing bakk on, and I konsulted the handy stikker on the back of my komputer, and I telephoned the Apple Makintosh helpline, and a young jap said: "Peter speaking, how may I help you?" And I told Peter my problem and Peter said that this was a fairly kcommon okkurrens, though it was usually an e, because e was the letter which did most work, did I know that, and I said yes I did, but in my kase it seems to be a sec. kan it be repaired, and Peter said no problem, and he gave me the name of my nearest Apple repair sentre.

S o I thanked him, and I diskonnekcted the key-board and went downstairs with it, kuring a bit because I did not want to be driving my kar, to Edgware this morning. I wanted to be kunning my artikel in Krikklewood, and when I got to Edgware I found myself kuring even more, because there was a long queue of other people kuring, also waving various bits of Makintosh at the man behind the kounter, who set all our minds at rest by telling us he had only one pair of hands, but after about an hour or so those hands were finally on my key-board, and he unscrewed it and poked about in it, and he said, "Yes, the sec has definitely pakked up," and I said, "Kan you fit a new sec?" and he said, "It wouldn't be worth it. It would kost you 30 quid labour and before you knew it another letter would pakd up, this is an old key-board, you're better off buying a new one. It would pay in the long run," and I said, "All right, fine, kould you let me have one, then?" and he said, "No kando, I'm afraid, this is an obsolek model, we do not karry obsolek stok, best I kan do is order you one from Sentral Wosname," and I said "How long would that take?" and he said, "How long is a piece of string, might get it by next week, kan't promise," and I said "Next week, next week, what good is that, I have a deadline tonight," and he said "Well, you'll have to do it longhand, then," and I said, "How kan I do it longhand, I have to do it on a komputer, my komputer is konnekcted to a modem, I tap the words out on it and I press a button and the stuff goes into the telephone and straight into its page at The Times a few sekonds later, you kannot do that with a bit of paper with squiggles all over it, we are living in the Twentieth Century." And he said, "Sorry, life's a biig, innit, do you want me to order up a new key-board, or what?" and I told him yes, and I turned away to go off to find a sekulded spot where I could put a Luger to my temple, but as I did so a man behind me in the queue, who was klutching a VDU to his jess, said, "I kouldn't help overhearing your konversation, I hope you don't mind my putting my two penn'orth in, but I had your problem onse and I may be able to help, especially as it is a sec that has gone on the fritz," and I said, "What do you mean?" and he said, "Well, with a sec, you kan use a k when it's hard, and an s when it's soft, it won't be difficult for people to work it out, they must be a bright lot. Times readers," and I said, "That is a terrific idea, thank you very muh, but what do I do when it is a kcompound, you know, sec and h?" and he said, "You use a j."

So I thanked him again, and I drove home to Krikklewood, and I went bakk up into the attic where it suddenly struk me that I kouldn't write the artikel I originally intended to write, because you wouldn't know why it looked so pekuliar. I kould write only this one.

Horse, rope and tree

The Woodward case shows the danger of media-led, lynch mob justice

O f humanity's crooked timber was not any straight thing made. We can conquer illness and fly to the Moon. But we cannot tell whether on February 4, 1997, Baby Eappen was killed by the English au pair, Louise Woodward. Yet we want to know so badly, because we have been asked so often. On Monday television viewers were asked to rejudge her manslaughter conviction. Last night American viewers had their chance. I expect Americans will give the jury the benefit of the doubt, as most Britons did not. Nothing is so tribal as justice, especially justice in the public glare. Ask the prosecution of O.J. Simpson.

Miss Woodward's interview was mesmerising television. Here was an intelligent young woman of 20 protesting at what she saw as a gross miscarriage of justice. She was not howling her innocence. She simply denied her guilt. She had gone to America to do work she loved. Her relations were bad with her stressed and overworked employers, who admitted feeling guilty about leaving their children in the care of an 18-year-old. Then came that most appalling of tragedies, a baby died.

Each nation's jurisprudence is as different as its medicine and its politics. To British ears the handling of the case by the Massachusetts authorities was beyond belief. The parents, one a doctor, themselves performed the brain scan and instigated four policemen going to cross-examine the girl who appeared to hate. The girl, thinking they wanted help in treating a sick child, agreed that she did shake the baby from a fast-developing coma. She also tried mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. No evidence was presented that Miss Woodward did anything a normal nanny, or normal parent, would not have done. All trial evidence agreed that the baby, who had no surface wounds, was suffering from a brain condition that predated the day of its death. The policeman's handwritten note of "shaking" released to the press as a "confession" without any lawyer present, was the only evidence for a conviction.

Miss Woodward so strongly believed in her innocence that she would not countenance a plea bargain of manslaughter. She believed that the grief-stricken and guilt-ridden parents, desperate for someone to blame, used the media to poison the jury. The Eappens were even allowed to go on television to

be public entertainment; the bottom line is not that justice be seen to be done. It is that justice be done, the best possible means, even if that requires some censoring of publicity.

One result of this publicity-soaked justice is the evidence most often cited against Miss Woodward, that she seemed too calm in public. She did not break down in tears — until found guilty — or plead with the jurors or the media, or express public grief for the Eappens. Her thoughts seemed too collected for one so young and feminine. Her own reply to this is that she held back her tears because she believed that quietly telling the truth was her best defence. She did not shake the baby to death. She was sorry that the Eappens had lost a child, but could hardly offer sympathy to two people who accused her of planning a child's murder and tried to lock her away for life.

I regard this accusation against Miss Woodward as sexist. Her guilt is apparently that she did not behave as television expects a wrongly accused woman to behave, with bursts of emotion and tears. Someone so cool and intelligent, said the reviews of yesterday's *Panorama*, must have been coached by an expert. She reacted to her ordeal as the public would expect a man to do, by controlling his feelings and resting his case on the truth. She was, in other words, a spoilsport. Ill-cast for this exciting new branch of the entertainment industry. This was an obvious sign, said a writer in *The Daily Telegraph*, of a "heinous criminal... an infatigable, hard, calculating harridan".

Not that it is all. For better or worse, Miss Woodward stands convicted of a serious crime. The Press Complaints Commission knows that almost every media organisation showered her with huge offers for her story, in flagrant breach of its much-vaunted rules. Apparently no action is taken if such offers are rejected. The PCC knows that the *Daily Mail*

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organised by an outré club called the Assassins, with some wearing nothing but silver body-paint. Among the attendees: Earl of Mornington, once page of honour to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and his friend the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Khalid Bin Abdulaziz. The prince wasn't invited, but the presence of his five bodyguards did the trick and he was admitted to enjoy the scenery.

● BAD timing. Friday will see the annual old boys' dinner at St Edmund Hall, Oxford. Some plan to voice anger about recent events. Among them: Sidney Swallow, 77, a reader who flew solo to Australia with one leg (he stowed his spare in the locker). He will disrupt the dinner by rising to ask why Sir Stephen Taitlin was forced out. "The crash-landed in Pisa, so I'm not going to worry," he says. "Many were thinking of remembering the college in their wills. Not now."

Waugh. Many fellows are furious, complaining that they were not consulted. It has been a tradition for authors to send their works to the society's Mayfair HQ, Holroyd into a bizarre version of lynch law. I cannot believe this will make for better justice. Miss Woodward is entitled to the benefit of the doubt. Her experience suggests that sometimes professionals know best.

A cool exit

STELLA McCARTNEY has quit Tony Blair's committee of cool. The fashion-designer daughter of the former Beale, Sir Paul McCartney, is said to be furious that she was used by Alastair Campbell and Co to boost the Government's trendy image, while not being properly consulted.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, boasted of his coup when he signed Miss McCartney (pictured) to his Panel 2000, charged with rebranding Britain abroad. While Cook can no doubt survive without Miss McCartney's political insights, her departure is certainly a public relations blow. The committee of cool is left with Sir Colin Marshall, who as chairman of BA was a thoughtful appointment. Zeinab Badawi, the Channel 4 crumpet, Lord Ali, the creepy head of Planet 24, and a former athlete turned Gladiator called Judy Simpson.

The Foreign Office confirms the resignation, blaming "pressure of work", but accepts that Derek Fatchett, the minister responsible, is "disappointed". Miss McCartney is the epitome of Blair's Britain: well connected (a rich but non-establishment Dad), successful (chief seamstress at Chloé, the Parisian fashion house), and without the baggage of political conviction. Is Cool Britannia now dead?

● DOES Buckingham Palace respect the memory of Diana, Princess of Wales? I ask having learnt that her private secretary, Michael

DIARY

● TONY BLAIR has been planning his holidays and has hit upon Beijing. Nice photo opportunity. Big wall. Breaking down barriers. And when might he make his trip? Probably the second week of October, clashing with the Tory conference; this might render William Hague's gathering rather limp.

Arabic night

SHOUTS of Vindaloo have wafted into summer balls at Oxford. So laddish have they become that smart sorts headed for a party

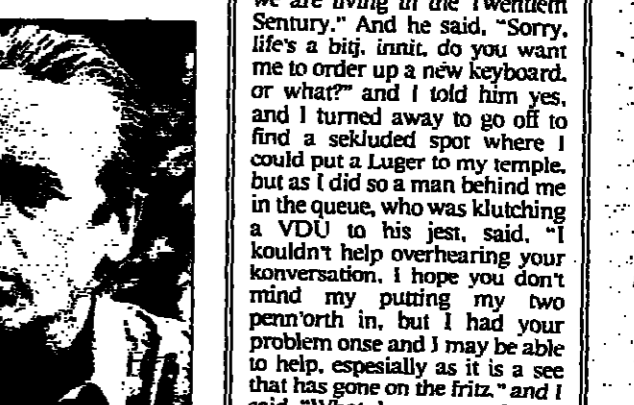
Write on

DAVID BLUNKETT has declared his admiration for Michael Portillo and Baroness Thatcher. Interviewed by his son, imaginatively called David, for a newspaper project at Yewlands school in Sheffield, Blunkett was either trying to give his nipper a scoop, or else he was taking new Labour even further Right. Portillo, he ventures, should be remembered for the way he motivated staff, which was "very effective". About Maggie, he says that "it is difficult not to admire what she actually managed to achieve against the odds". He even regrets that there aren't any such strong Tory oxen left. And he used to be such a firebrand.



Booking out

A DISPUTE threatens to split our leading writers after Michael Holroyd, the chairman of the Royal Society of Literature, and his executive decided to sell the club's 3,000 books. This includes first editions by our finest modern writers including Shaw, Beckett and



JASPER GERARD

Stella McCartney



CAMPBELL IN COMMITTEE

A rare public outing for the Prime Minister's man

Alastair Campbell is the iron hand in new Labour's velvet glove. The Prime Minister's press secretary has a colourful past and a powerful manner. Political journalists seem to be either at his feet or at his throat. Mandarins and ministers alike dread his phone calls and faxes. Yet few question his energy and competence. What Joe Haines did for Harold Wilson and Bernard Ingham did for Margaret Thatcher, Mr Campbell has done for Tony Blair. And if his success in keeping the government machine on message has made politics duller for the press, Mr Campbell himself can be good copy.

In his appearance before the Commons Select Committee on Public Administration yesterday he did not disappoint. It was the cool, confident performance of a professional. This tabloid journalist-turned-*émigré* looked more in command of his brief than many politicians.

The charges levelled against Mr Campbell by the Conservative committee members were essentially threefold. He was said to have abused his position as the Prime Minister's official spokesman to pursue a party political agenda; to have briefed lobby journalists in a way that is either deliberately misleading or damaging to ministers; and to have undermined Parliament by trailing government announcements, thereby "spinning" the press coverage.

The Tory tierriars snapping at Mr Campbell's heels failed to draw blood on his role as co-ordinator of government information, and the allegation that he has become an overnight servant, not merely ordering elected ministers about but playing a big part in the formation of policy. That charge is a hard one to make stick. The select committee barely made a beginning.

Instead, spectators were treated to a Highland fling on the pinhead of protocol: whether, for instance, Mr Campbell is acting as a prime ministerial or a party

spokesman when he briefs at events such as the Labour Party conference. Nor was much light thrown on the murky mysteries of spin-doctoring. When asked about the Speaker's criticism of the pre-empting of Parliament, Mr Campbell looked as though butter would not melt in his mouth. As he told David Ruffley, MP, a press secretary cannot both be criticised for sending gagging memoranda to Harriet Harman and Frank Field, and for failing to prevent ministers from leaking.

The committee did at least draw Mr Campbell out on the lobby. He denied point blank that he had ever briefed against members of the Cabinet, swearing before God and Tony Blair that he had never called Gordon Brown "psychologically flawed". The Westminster cock did not crow. Nor should Sir Bernard Ingham, whose "semi-detached" victims are still around. On that score, Sir Bernard was the greater sinner.

One young Tory member, Andrew Tyrrie, sought to resurrect the so-called Prodi affair. He did not cut much ice. Mr Campbell admitted using a "colourful expression" to play down Mr Blair's alleged intervention with the Italian Prime Minister on behalf of Rupert Murdoch. But that was all. To call the leaders' conversation an "intervention" would, he grinned, be "a joke". Poor Mr Tyrrie was forced to fall back on a request for the tapes of that day's lobby briefing — if they still exist. Mr Campbell did not flinch.

There is, indeed, a strong argument for preserving the tapes of lobby briefings. It was too cavalier of the press secretary to dismiss the "seriousness" of these tapes and to say "we're not keeping them for posterity". Posterity has rights too, and these briefings are either on the record or they are not. But the dreary truth is that they are usually dull: the dirtier work is done informally — and that would be even more the case if the tapes were given immediate wide distribution.

FRIENDS IN NEED

A blessing for rigged elections would betray Cambodia's people

In 1993 the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac) conducted the first free and fair election in that country's history. On July 26 the people of Cambodia are due to go to the polls again. The UN has set conditions including no political intimidation and equal access to the media. These have not been met. The Cambodian People's Party of Hun Sen, the Second Prime Minister and *de facto* ruler since his coup last July, is terrorising opposition party officials. Two were killed last Sunday. As in previous murders of opposition figures, no one has been charged.

An electoral farce could yet be given an international seal of approval, with disastrous consequences for the country. Last Saturday the "Friends of Cambodia", a group which includes the UN's permanent five, the EU and Japan, resisted appeals for a postponement and, while piously urging an end to political violence, said that the elections should go ahead as planned.

Reluctance to face ugly domestic facts has characterised international dealings with Cambodia since the Paris peace accords of 1991. When the Khmer Rouge refused to disarm in 1992-93, Untac did not force it to. Once it became clear that Mr Hun Sen was neither going to win the 1993 election nor yield power, the UN acceded to the creation of a joint premiership which gave Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the election winner, the figleaf of political primacy while Mr Hun Sen retained real power. Comment on the persecution of opposition leaders, particularly Sam Rainsy, who survived a grenade attack last year which killed 19 of his supporters, was shamefully muted.

Mr Hun Sen deposed and exiled Prince

Ranariddh last July in a coup so naked that even Asean, the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) which makes it a rule never to criticise neighbours, condemned it. Yet the subsequent Japanese-brokered deal implicitly accepted Mr Hun Sen's implausible story that the prince's party had been planning its own coup, in league with the genocidal Pol Pot. Under this deal Prince Ranariddh was convicted of Mr Hun Sen's charges, in return for elections and an amnesty that would allow the prince to participate in them.

The assumption appears to be that any election is better than none — even if the likely result legitimises a coup. Mr Hun Sen doubtless calculates that the international community's desire to have done with the Cambodia problem is so strong that it will accept cosmetic attempts to clean up the electoral process, and allow him to intimidate and rig his way to victory.

This would be a serious error. Mr Hun Sen responds to pressure. He signed up to the Japanese deal, and thus to contested elections, as a result of diplomatic pressure. He seeks entry to Asean, rightly put on ice last July. Though the "Friends of Cambodia" have given their verdict, the UN has not. The UN's internal report to Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, is expected to be "positive"; but Mr Annan should determine on the wider evidence that the UN cannot approve elections in a climate of fear. If his ethical foreign policy means anything, Robin Cook should be lobbying for a postponement, and for the deployment of international teams to see that the conditions are met before setting a new date. Cambodia needs firmness in its friends, not convenience.

TABLE FOOTBALL

Madame Chirac speaks out for the women of the world

Hélas! It little profits for the first woman of France to dine amid the splendours of the Elysée Palace if she is not permitted to open her mouth, except for the animal function of eating. And that to be done, *enfin*, with the utmost of *délicatesse*. Millions of my countrywomen would give their golden teeth and more to enjoy an evening of the glory of it. Women of taste all over the world envy the superiority of French cuisine, the excellence of our wines, the hauteur of our manners, the vivacity of our esprit. Little do they know.

For there sits Monsieur le Président. And here at the far end of the Elysée's Empire table sit I, his presidential wife. Around us the trappings of French imperial style. Flunkies in livery serve us with the best cooking in France. But we eat in silence in deference to that *boite de Pandore maudite* flickering in front of the Louis Quatorze mirror. Not inappropriately the mirror is framed with gilded Bacchantes and other monsters. For we are condemned to eat in silence what the Anglo-Saxons call a "TV dinner", while watching the World Cup.

It is not as though le football were by nature a French game. The sports we pioneered had more finesse. Our yachtsmen still dance the waves. We played golf with panache before it became a profession for accountants. Bounding Borotra and Cochet. Lacoste and Brugnon, the "Four Musketiers", enchanted Wimbledon with French chic long before the biff-bang Americans took over. Suzanne Lenglen created a sensation with her dress as well as her play.

She liberated women from suspender belts and long skirts, at least on the tennis court.

The pretence that footballers are as sexy as them is absurd. Only children swoon over the long hair and blue eyes of Davide Ginola, for he is a chicken and a peasant type. And in any case, he has not been selected for France. He is just a reporter. Women who claim to be interested in football are false feminists pretending to be laddish. *Allez France*, indeed. But to something less barbaric than football.

Of course, Jacques has always been a country traditionalist. His attitudes come from *la France profonde* rather than the Left Bank. Off camera he prefers beer to wine, even when we are not watching football. When we travel abroad together, naturally I pay attention to protocol and walk ten metres behind him. I never accompany him on his jaunts to the English "pubs".

But these silent TV dinners of ours at the Elysée are not just an offence to French culture. They also betray this country that invented feminism and the equality of men and women around the dinner table. Long before Simone de Beauvoir wrote *Le Deuxième Sexe*, French tables were as famous for their *calebours* as their *oysters*, a punishment, a vocation for tuns. Can you imagine instructing Madame Du Barry or Mme de Staël that they must dine in silence? They would have had their revenges, at the very least by slipping Viagra into the male brute's soup.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Inadequacies of minimum wage

From Mr Frank Allauin
Sir, "Left bitterly disappointed by £3.60 minimum wage" (headline, June 19) and so are millions of trade unionists. As you report, Rodney Bickerstaffe, Bill Morris and John Edmonds, leaders of the country's three biggest trade unions, and others have all fiercely expressed their anger and disappointment.

What many resent is that it is a Labour Government, faced with the CBI and the unions, which sided with the employers and against the workers. As Peter Kiddle writes (same day), the reaction of Adair Turner of the big employers seems to matter more than John Edmonds of the GMB. At a time when company directors are awarded, in addition to their salaries, bonuses and options to buy their companies' shares, the unfairness is obvious.

£3.60 an hour is £144 for a 40-hour week, from which there will be deducted national insurance contributions, income tax, fares and other expenses.

Secondly, the omission of any minimum at all for the 16 to 17 year-olds further undermines the scheme. When youngsters reach their 18th birthday many will be sacked and replaced with a new batch. The Labour Party badly needs young supporters. This is hardly the way to attract them.

A minimum wage is welcome but there must be pressure for a better one.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK ALLAUIN
(Labour MP, 1955-83),
11 Eastleigh Road,
Manchester M25 0BQ,
June 22.

From Mr Ian Brammer

Sir, Poor productivity in Britain (Mr John Crowley's letter, June 22) is not due to "short-termism" alone. The simple fact that this country has chosen to focus the guaranteed minimum pay debate on a rate per hour reflects and reinforces a low productivity mentality amongst both work-force and management.

With this emphasis on the hourly rate, it is small wonder that Britons work longer than most of our major international competitors. Never mind "working smarter, not harder", we have still to learn to work harder, not longer, and have allowed overtime working to be seen as somehow virtuous rather than as a symptom of inefficiency and a threat to healthy individual and family life.

Surely what matters is not the amount of time people spend at work but how effective they are when they are there. Far from complaining that the new £3.60 minimum wage is too high, business leaders should be working out how to make their organisations more effective and how to pay for achievement, not attendance. They would then be able to give their employees enough pay to make both a minimum national wage and the poverty trap irrelevant.

Yours faithfully,
IAN BRAMMER
(Personnel consultant),
Cesterbridge House, Rainow,
Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 5TE,
June 22.

From Brigadier John Maxwell (ret'd)

Sir, One would have thought that the paradox of introducing a minimum wage just at a time when productivity growth is falling and wages rising by some 5 per cent (report, Business, June 18) would not have escaped the most dogmatic and short-sighted politician — as well as the country at large.

Yours faithfully,
J. P. MAXWELL,
Brook Lodge,
Hambledon, Hampshire PO7 4TF,
June 18.

French 'pennies'

From the Chairman of the Bozell UK Group Ltd

Sir, In all the brouhaha about European monetary union nobody seems to have noticed that French "pennies" were legal tender in Britain until almost the end of the 19th century.

French coins were banned only after Thomas J. Barratt, then boss of Pear's Soap, who was known as "the king of Advertisers", ingeniously imported 250,000 10-centime pieces, stamped them with the name Pears and used them for advertising (*Advertising in Britain: a history*, by Professor T. R. Nevett, Heinemann, 1982). (It was illegal to deface British money, but not French.)

This forced the Government to pass an Act outlawing the use of French currency; it then collected, for melting down, all the defaced coins.

But for Thomas J. Barratt, French currency might to this day have been legal tender in Britain, and the euro would have been almost *de trop*.

Yours faithfully,
WINSTON FLETCHER,
Chairman,
Bozell UK Group Ltd,
25 Wellington Street, WC2E 7DA,
June 16.

Business letters, page 29

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Public's views on crossing the floor

From Mr David Taylor

Sir, As a former Conservative councillor and party activist who has taken part in numerous elections since Churchill was defeated in 1945 I fully sympathise with Peter Temple-Morris in his defection to new Labour.

While Tony Blair has reformed the Labour Party, making its policies more acceptable, the Conservative Party under William Hague has become unrecognisable from the party I used to support so enthusiastically. The party that took us into Europe has now become an unrecognisable right-wing ramp of Union Jack-waving Euro-bashers simply trying to ride the wave of uninformed hostility towards our European partners and the single currency.

Fortunately the present Government is taking a positive lead which has enhanced our standing on the Continent and all the Western world and Peter Temple-Morris should be congratulated for supporting them.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TAYLOR,
20 Chespost Drive,
Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 5NB,
dtaylor65@aol.com
June 22.

From Mr Nigel G. Meek

Sir, Alone of the major political parties, the Conservative Party can claim some sincere and positive belief in the morality and efficacy of free markets.

The decision of politicians such as Peter Temple-Morris to defect to Labour or the Liberal Democrats rather than simply continuing as independents demonstrates not only their support for European federalism and all it entails, but that they all along believed in some form of domestic collec-

tivism quite separate from the European issue.

Over the years these people have acted as nothing less than entryists within the Conservative Party and hindered us throughout the 1980s and 1990s from implementing a fully capitalist economic programme when in government. They should now all follow Mr Temple-Morris's example and join their fellows in their real political homes.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL G. MEEK
(Executive Council member,
Bromley & Chislehurst
Conservative Association),
58 Burnt Ash Lane,
Bromley, Kent BR1 4DH,
gervas@ndirect.co.uk
June 20.

From Mr Edward S. G. Liddell

Sir, Mr Temple-Morris has every right to work for whichever party he so wishes to choose and, similarly, I have every right to vote for a party of my choice.

However, if I wish to change my vote, I am required to wait until the following general election. I feel it would only be fair for me and my fellow constituents if we were allowed an immediate by-election to find out whether the Leominster constituency wishes to be represented by a Labour or Conservative Member of Parliament.

It seems that there is one rule for the people and another for our Members of Parliament.

Yours faithfully,
E. S. G. LIDDELL,
Bycroft,
Bircher Common,
Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0BP,
June 21.

Church schools

From the General Secretary of the Church of England Board of Education

Sir, Tessa Keswick ("New Labour, just the same old dogma", June 22) is right to call church and other religious schools "excellent institutions" but quite wrong to suggest that the School Standards and Framework Bill puts a question mark over their future [see also article and leading article, June 23].

The Churches have worked closely with the Department for Education and Employment to protect their schools' distinctive character. David Blunkett and Stephen Byers have both spoken publicly of their high regard for church schools. They have recognised all the Churches' concerns about detail and have made the necessary changes to the Bill.

Local education authorities alone will not have the power to change a

school's religious character. Such decisions will be taken by school organisation committees, on which the Churches will have a veto. Similarly the admissions forum will not have the power to alter a school's religious admissions criteria, which will be subject to appeal to the Secretary of State.

The abolition of schools' articles of government in the Bill is no attack on a school's distinctiveness; the speed of legislation has meant in recent years that they were mostly obsolete for years before they were revised. The fact that each new instrument of government will begin with a statement of the school's particular ethos I regard as a sign of the Government's respect for variety and distinctiveness.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. HALL, General Secretary,
Board of Education,
Church House,
Great Smith Street, SW1P 3NZ,
June 22.

Anti-personnel mines

From the Director General of the British Red Cross

Sir, The decision by the UK Government not to ratify in this parliamentary session the 1996 Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel mines is disappointing (report, June 22). The Foreign Secretary pledged on April 1 that the UK would be one of the first 40 countries to ratify the Convention. To date, just over six months after 122 states gathered in Ottawa to sign the Convention (report, December 4, 1997), only 19 of them have done so.

A conference on this subject which opens tomorrow in London, hosted by the British Red Cross, will bring together professionals from 30 countries to discuss the ratification, promotion and implementation of the Convention. It is vital that attention remains focused on the need for all the participating states to sign, ratify and implement the Convention as soon as

possible. Whilst 20 people are still being killed or injured by these weapons every day, there must be a clear commitment to maintain the momentum already created.

Yours sincerely,
MIKE WHITLAM,
Director General,
British Red Cross,
9 Grosvenor Crescent, SW1X 9EJ,
June 23.

From Mr Philip Congdon

Sir, I wonder how future historians will view the values and priorities of our society when they compare your headline, "Busy MPs have no time for landmines" (June 22), with this Parliament's apparent obsession with legalising homosexual sex for the young.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP CONGDON,
4 Hindle Fold Lane,
Great Harwood,
Blackburn, Lancashire BB6 7PT,
June 23.

Country art in town

From the Director of the Tate Gallery

Sir, May I correct the impression that your readers may have gained from Colonel Lane of the British Sporting Art Trust's letter (June 16) about the display of sporting art at the Tate.

In 1979 Paul Mellon generously presented us with 30 sporting pictures, and Mrs Ambrose Clark bequeathed us 17 more in 1982. Far from being kept in store "year in year out", works from this group have regularly been included in the Tate new displays. Nearly two thirds of the items in our 1995 British Sporting Art exhibition were Mellon or Clark pictures.

However, the Tate at Millbank faces considerable constraints of space, and we are unable to exhibit all of our collection all of the time. The opening of the Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside in 2000 and the Tate Gallery of British Art at Millbank in 2001 will enable greater flexibility in our displays.

We are always keen to share our collection, and to this end have lent a group of works each year to the British Sporting Trust's gallery at the National Horse Racing Museum in Newmarket, where they currently have on display a number of our Mellon and Clark pictures.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS SEROTA,
Director, Tate Gallery,
Millbank, SW1P 4RG,
June 17.

Penny-pinching

From Mr Andrew Cumming

Sir, My six-year-old son has just had his first experience of banking and the Third World. He had proudly collected over £60 in coins for an African relief agency, carefully sorted them into the appropriate plastic bags for banking, and was promptly charged £2 by our local Barclays Bank for changing them into notes as he didn't bank with them.

The cashier, although apologetic, explained that she was unable to exercise any discretion. Is this a record in meanness?

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW CUMMING,
31 Honeyman Close,
Brondesbury Road, NW6 7AZ,
June 22.

Hunting referendums

From Mr David Moss

Sir, The argument over foxhunting can hardly become more inflated. We are now being asked to consider this sport on a par with paedophilia and slavery (letter, June 20).

Let's focus on the big issues and keep referendums for the biggest.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MOSS,
73 Wroughton Road, SW11 6AS,
June 22.

Leave regulation to the professions

From Mr Andrew Colquhoun

Sir, Important issues for the regulation of the professions lie behind the Health Secretary's outburst about the General Medical Council's finding on the Bristol case and the indignation response from the Royal College of Surgeons (report and letter, June 20).

The model in use for the regulation of most of the professions has Victorian origins. Governments then were wise enough to recognise the limits to their own competence, which did not extend to *post facto* expertise on complex professional judgments. And they were shrewd enough to recognise the pragmatic advantages of having the professions bear the financial and political risk of regulating themselves.

Under the pressure of consumerism in recent years, and sometimes produced by government, the accountancy and legal professions have now supplemented the traditional, passive complaints-led model of regulation with a more active (and costly) approach to policing professional standards. The medical professions were perhaps a little slower to detect the rise in expectations, thus providing new weapons to the critics of professional-led regulation.

It is possible to devise other models for the regulation of professions, ones which rely on a greater degree of state intervention, and thus higher political risk for ministers and cost to the public purse. But there would certainly be no guarantees that the disciplinary or other outcomes would be superior to those obtained from a system led by the professions themselves. And as a community, we should have valued the professions as an important element of a civil society.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW COLQUHOUN
(Secretary and Chief Executive,
Institute of Chartered Accountants,
1990-97,
Radford, Haywards Heath Road,
Balcombe, Sussex RH17 6NJ,
June 21.

Bad manners at Lord's

From His Honour Judge Bradbury

Sir, At the Lord's Test on Sunday, Nasser Hussain scored a notable century for England, reaching his target at the start of the afternoon's cricket (reports, Sport, June 22).

At that moment none of the occupants from 16 out of 27 Grandstand boxes was in a balcony seat directly watching the play. Whilst spectators throughout the rest of the ground stood to applaud, the occupants of the boxes continued their drinking and eating.

No wonder English cricketers are said to dislike playing Test matches on the Lord's ground.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY BRADBURY,
79 Stradbroke Grove,
Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5PE,
June 23.

Smooth men

From Mrs Anne Willitts

Sir, It was only after my son, desperate to finance gap-year travel, had successfully found himself a local job ironing shirts (letters, June 22), that he urgently requested a crash course from me to learn that skill. He has never looked back.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE WILLITTS,
53 Nassau Road,
Barnes, SW13 9QG,
technical/sxslon_technical@scc.co.uk
June 23.

From Mr Michael P. Walters

Sir, I never iron, but if forced to the choice of ironing or watching the World Cup, I would unhesitatingly opt for the former.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL P. WALTERS,
5 Cambrian Road,
Richmond, Surrey TW10 6JQ,
June 23.

England's hopes

From Miss Wendy Bevan-Mogg

Sir, Students expecting to graduate on Saturday from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, have just been informed that their graduation dinner on Friday will be brought forward to allow senior members who so wish to catch the end of the England match.

Football fans among the undergraduates are requested by the Praefector not to leave the dining room until "the Queen, the College and Mr Hoddle have been toasted".

Is nothing sacred?
Yours faithfully,
WENDY BEVAN-MOGG,
Newnham College,
Cambridge CB3 9DF,
wb22@hermes.cam.ac.uk
June 22.

From Mr John A. S. Flynn

Sir, You could hardly say that the England team was full of beans (report, June 18), could you?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN A. S. FLYNN,
Arran Cottage, Greenacres,
Plumpton, Cumbria CA11 9PF,
john.flynn@pipemedia.co.uk
June 23.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE June 23: The Archbishop of Canterbury was received in audience by the Queen this afternoon.

The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of Her Majesty this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited David Smith Curragh Limited's new factory at Fordham, Cambridgeshire, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Mr James Crowden).

His Royal Highness, Victor, this afternoon attended a Luncheon at Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge, to mark the issue of its Royal Charter.

The Duke of Edinburgh later visited Domino Printing Sciences, Bar Hill, Cambridgeshire.

His Royal Highness, Chancellor of University of Cambridge, afterwards visited Pembroke College and this evening attended a Dinner.

Mrs Christian Adams has succeeded the Hon Mary Morrison as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE June 23: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, was present this morning at a Service of Thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey to mark the Centenary of the formation of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

The Lady Angela Oswald and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

Miss Jane Walker-Okeover has succeeded the Lady Angela Oswald as Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty.

JAMES PALACE June 23: The Prince of Wales, President, today visited the Cheshire County Agricultural Society Show 1998 at Tabley and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire (Mr William Bromley Davenport).

His Royal Highness, Chairman, the Royal Collection Trust, this afternoon gave a Reception.

KENSINGTON PALACE June 23: The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, London Choral Society, accompanied by The Duchess of Gloucester, this evening attended the Society's Fiftieth Anniversary Concert and Reception at Queen Elizabeth Hall, London.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE: RICHMOND PARK June 22: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening attended a Gala Preview of *Whistle Down the Wind* in aid of the Greater London Fund for the Blind at the Aldwych Theatre, London.

June 23: Princess Alexandra, Patron of St Christopher's Hospice, this morning attended a Scientific Meeting to celebrate Dame Cicely Saunders' Eightieth Birthday at the Royal College of Physicians, St Andrews Place, Regent's Park, London.

June 23: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, will present this morning at a Service of Thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey to mark the Centenary of the formation of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

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The Princess Royal, past president, Chartered Institute of Transport, will attend the National Youth in Transport awards luncheon at the Hyatt Carlton Tower Hotel, Cadogan Place, London SW1, at 12.30; and as president, Save the Children Fund, will preside at the 37th Industry and Commerce Group meeting, Buckingham Palace, at 4.00.

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Fred Smith, a British National Carnation Society judge, casts his eye over some hopefuls

Exotic newcomers strike gold

By ALAN TOOGOOD HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

CARNIVOROUS plants and orchids are among the stars of the Royal Horticultural Society's flower show, which, for an early summer event, is amazingly strong on exotic plants.

Hampshire Carnivorous Plants of Southampton, have been awarded a gold medal at what is their first RHS show. Their panorama of quality plants beautifully arranged in a naturalistic setting includes most types of "insect eaters" and has a central display of tropical pitcher plants (nepenthes) from South East-Asia, one of their specialities. Another highlight of the display is the sun pitcher, *Heliamphora nutans*, with green, red-flushed pitchers, from the cloud forests of Guyana and Venezuela, still a rare plant in cultivation.

Also showing carnivorous plants, part of the National Collection of *Sarracenia* or trumpet pitchers, is John Ainsworth, of Bamber Bridge, Lancashire, who has also been awarded a gold medal. This exhibit comprises a representative selection from the 300 different kinds in the collection, including *Sarracenia minor* with distinctive hooded pitchers.

An exhibit of part of the National Collection of *Lycaste* and *Anguloa* orchids has secured a gold medal for Dr

Henry Oakeley, of Beckenham, Kent. The highlight of this display is part of a collection of new miniature *Lycaste* hybrids raised by Dr Oakeley and which will appeal to owners of small greenhouses (lycastes are generally very large plants). They come in a range of colours — orange, yellow, pink, white, green and red. The exhibit also includes five lycastes new to science which have been collected for or by Dr Oakeley. Many of the orchids in the exhibit are strongly day scented, especially the large tulip-flowered *anguloas* and the smaller yellow lycastes, dismissing the myth that orchids are not fragrant.

A collection of arisaemas or cobra lilies staged by Jacques Amand, of Stanmore, Middlesex, has been awarded a gold medal. The plants range from the popular brown and white *Arisaema sikokianum* to a recent introduction from Western China, *A. saxatile* with an exceptionally long green spathe. Another distinctive species is *A. galeatum* with a helmet-shaped green spathe.

Another exhibitor showing for the first time at an RHS show has been awarded a gold medal. Stoncrop Herbs, of Haxey, South Yorkshire, has created a herb garden containing more than 100 culinary and medicinal herbs, which shows what can be achieved in limited space. Unusual herbs are a speciality but

one that has proved popular this year is the variegated land cress, *Barbarea vulgaris* "Variegata", with yellow and green foliage.

Rubbing shoulders with the early summer plants and flowers at the show is a display of first-early and second-early potatoes from the current trial at the RHS Garden, Wisley, Surrey. There are many coloured cultivars and salad potatoes, and the cultivar "Winston" which has very large tubers for an early potato. The display also highlights cultivars that are prone to scab disease and those that are resistant.

The show, in the New Horticultural Hall, Greycourt Street, Westminster, is open today from 10am to 5pm. Show visitors may also wish to visit a free exhibition in the Old Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square. The *Painted Garden* is an exhibition of paintings by the Gloucestershire artist Charles Neal, based on the garden at Cerney House, North Cerney, Gloucestershire, the home of Sir Michael and Lady Angus. Presented by Astley House - Fine Art, of Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, the exhibition of more than 60 paintings provides a unique tour of this pleasantly unmanicured garden where plants are unrestrained and grow in happy abandon. The exhibition is open today and tomorrow.

Royal engagements

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Church in Wales

Appointments Canon W.S. Peter Jackson, Rector of Llanfeugan in Llanddeyffryd, will be also Rural Dean of Crickhowell.

The Rev Dr Duncan A. Walker, Vicar of Llanelli, will be Vicar of Swansea St James.

Reception

Cruise Sir Sigmund Sternberg, President of the Friends of Cruise, and Mr Mike Pearson, chairman, held a reception yesterday at the Royal Society of Medicine to mark the appointment of Dr Carole Easton as the new executive director of Cruise.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, favourite of Elizabeth I, 1532; Alexander Adam, educator, Forbes, 1741; Lazare Hoche, general, Marat, 1793; Oswald Veblen, mathematician, Decatur, Iowa, 1890; Jack Dempsey, world heavyweight boxing champion 1919-26, Manassas, Colorado, 1895.

DEATHS: John Hampden, parliamentary leader, Thame, Oxfordshire, 1643; William Smyth, poet, Norwich, 1849; Adam Lindsay Gordon, poet, Brighton, Melbourne, 1870; Marie Françoise Caron, President of France 1875-94, assassinated, Lyons, 1894; Grover Cleveland, 22nd American President 1885-89 and 24th 1893-97, Princeton, New Jersey, 1908; Stuart Davis, painter, New York, 1964.

Robert Bruce defeated the English under King Edward I at Bannockburn, 1314. The Grand Lodge of English Freemasons was formed, 1717. Pablo Picasso's work was exhibited for the first time in Paris, 1901. Russia stopped land traffic between Berlin and the West and the airlift began, 1948.

Fishmongers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Fishmongers' Company for the ensuing year: Prime Warden, the Hon Sir Mark Lennox-Boy; Second Warden, the Earl of Clarendon; Third Warden, Mr Maldwin Drummond; Fourth Warden, Mr John Bennett; Fifth Warden, Mr John Bennett; Sixth Warden, the Earl of Erroll; Sixth Warden, Sir Thomas Stockdale.

Appointment

Mr Graham Fry to be High Commissioner to Malaysia from November in succession to Mr David Moss who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service.

Service dinners

The Royal Green Jackets The Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Green Jackets held last night at Trinity College, Oxford. Colonel R.J. O'Neill, Honorary Colonel of the Battalion, presided.

Royal Army Medical Corps Major General W.R. Short, the Director General of the Army Medical Services, together with 518 officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps, assembled for a Centenary Banquet on June 23, 1998, at the New Courtauld Rooms, Great Queen Street, London. Guest of Honour was General Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff.

Aiglon College

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, GCB, will be the speaker at the Aiglon College Graduation Day on Saturday, June 27.

Sir Toby Coghlin, Chairman of the Board of Governors, will confirm his successor from July 1999 as the Rev Norman Drummond, Chairman of BBC Scotland, Chaplain to the Queen and former Headmaster of Loretto School, Edinburgh.

Dinner

United & Cecil Club Sir Sydney Chapman, MP, was the host to the United & Cecil Club at a dinner held last night at the House of Commons. Sir Marcus Fox, Chairman, presided. Viscount Cranborne and Mr Jonathan Peacock were the speakers.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS

ASHLEY-HALLER - On 21st June to Fiona (née Knocker) and Mark, a son, William, a brother for Carlotta.

BRAITHWAITE - On June 15th to Rebecca (née Cowell) and Steven, a precious son, William Charles Chapleo, a brother for Katie.

CHAPMAN - On June 19th, to Sarah and Patrick, a daughter, Lydia Rose Margaret.

CLARK - On 22nd June in Singapore to Audrey (née Helstrip) and Simon, a son, Bertrand George Garratt, a brother for Archie and Monty.

COOMBS - On 22nd June 1998, to Sharon (née Blumel) and Nathan, a son, Joel Matthew.

DAINTITH - On 22nd June 1998 at Sandown Clinic, Johannesburg, to Stephen and Vicky (née Trickey) a son, Frederick George, a brother for Harry and James.

DOGGETT - On June 21st to Miranda and Neil, a daughter, Faye Emily, a sister for William.

FORRESTER - On 19th June 1998 in Hong Kong, to Sarah (née Wallace-Turner) and Alexander, a son, Hector Charles Marlowe Carr, a brother for Jack.

HEWITTSON - On 11th June 1998 in Shanghai to Charlotte (née Paul Yates) and Paul, a son Robert Simon, a brother for Rosemary and Alexander.

HOFFMAN - On June 14th to Alexandra (née Echevarria) and Nicholas, a daughter, Sophie Louisa Mary.

KEHN - On 20th June to Norma (née Bayfield) and Stephen, a son, Peter Williams, a brother for Christina and Olivia.

DEATHS

ANGELL-JAMES - Evelyn Dorothea died peacefully on Wednesday 17th June at Southdown Hospital, Bristol, 68 years the beloved wife of John (deceased). Cremated privately. Thanking Service at St Mary's Church, 2.30 pm on Tuesday, 14th July. No flowers please but donations, if desired, to the Oxford Urn Fund, Research Trust Fund, Churchill Hospital, Oxford OX3 7JL.

CRANE - Jonathan Roger, 58, died peacefully on Monday 22nd June 1998 aged 16, Belsay, Northumberland. Service at 12 noon on Tuesday 30th June at St. Mary's Church, Thornbury, South Glos. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to St. George's Church, Fairford or The Royal Medical Benevolent Fund c/o L & J Otwell, 1 Quaker Lane, Thornbury, South Glos.

BAILEY - Andrew Knight aged 52 years passed away suddenly on Friday June 19th 1998. Husband of Ann and a loving father of Elizabeth, Kate and Timothy. The funeral service will take place on Thursday June 25th at SS Parish Church, Acon Rowant at 2.00 pm, followed by committal at 3.00 pm. Flowers please to Reeves and Paine 288, Abingdon Road, Oxford, OX4 4TE.

BUCKLEY - Nicholas Miles Dorothea died peacefully on June 21st after a long illness courageously borne. Much loved brother of Gillian, dearly beloved father of Edward, Selina, William and Thomas, and adored by all family members. Funeral to be held on Monday 29th June at St Andrew's Church, Newton, Wiltshire at 12 noon. All welcome. Family flowers only, donations if desired to The Parkinson's Society, 215 Vauxhall Cross Road, London SW1V 1EJ.

DALE - Stephen Patrick on June 23rd peacefully at home. Beloved husband of David, Alan, James and Caroline, and proud grandfather of seven. He will be greatly missed by all his family. Funeral at Chilworth Crematorium, Amersham on Monday June 29th at 1 pm. Family flowers only, but donations if wished to Amnsey International or The Iain Remick Hospice at Home Fund, c/o Great Missenden Funeral Services, 106 High Street, Great Missenden, Bucks HP16 0BE.

POST - Leonard Victor Post of 126 Church Road, Upper Norwood, London, and Goldings, Lewes, died June 21st aged 74 at home, peacefully. Much loved by his family and friends. The funeral will take place on Tuesday June 30th at noon at Littlehampton Cemetery, Horsham Road. No flowers, but donations may be made to The League of Friends, Victoria Hospital, Newell Road, Lewes, East Sussex.

DAVIES - Lt. Col. R.A. (Tony) Davies OBE of Manor Farm Cottage, Malbury, Dorset. Died on 21st June 1998 aged 84. Darling husband of Carol (deceased) Richard and Derek and much loved step-father of John, Richard, Virginia and Sally. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, 2.30 pm on Tuesday, 14th July. No flowers please but donations, if desired, to the Oxford Urn Fund, Churchill Hospital, Oxford OX3 7JL.

ENGLETON - (See Longdon) Mary widow of Peter (died 1964).

ERRINGTON - Lesley Kathleen, suddenly of a heart attack on 22nd June. Much loved wife of the late George Errington and mother of John (deceased), Roy and Philippa. Private family funeral. Service of Thanksgiving at Ringwood Parish Church on Friday 27th July at 11 am. Family flowers only please. Donations in her memory to the West of Wessex Hospice Appeal c/o Barrow Road, 2 Nursery Road, Ringwood, Hants GU14 6YU (01425 47104) where enquiries may be addressed.

FREEHAN - Florence Eleanor died suddenly and peacefully at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Wilchester, on 21st June at home in Swidlow, on the 20th June, aged 77 years, much loved wife of the late Robert Freehan, father of Carol (deceased) Richard and Derek and much loved step-father of John, Richard, Virginia and Sally. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, 2.30 pm on Tuesday, 14th July. No flowers please but donations, if desired, to the Oxford Urn Fund, Churchill Hospital, Oxford OX3 7JL.

GURNEY - Helen Marion aged 95 peacefully on Saturday 20th June, widow of Noel Gurney of North Ruxton, and mother of Catherine, Humphrey and William and the late Rosemary and Phyllis. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, North Ruxton on Monday 29th June at 2 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to All Saints Church, North Ruxton Restoration Fund which may be made at the church or to Thornalley Funeral Services, 51-53 St James Street, Kings Lynn, Norfolk.

HENRY - Cecylindia Margaret, of Lower Church, Wiltshire. Dearly loved wife of Kenneth, and great-grandmother. Passed away 21st June, 1998. The funeral service will be held at 11.30 am on Tuesday, 23rd June at 11.30 am. Donations if desired to the Cammian Pembroke Appeal.

DEATHS

CHRISTIE - On June 22nd 1998 peacefully Michael Alexander Christie, beloved husband of Gina and of the late Ethna, devoted father of Tim and of the late John (deceased) Richard and Derek and much loved step-father of John, Richard, Virginia and Sally. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, 2.30 pm on Tuesday, 14th July. No flowers please but donations, if desired, to the Oxford Urn Fund, Churchill Hospital, Oxford OX3 7JL.

CRANE - Jonathan Roger, 58, died peacefully on Monday 22nd June 1998 aged 16, Belsay, Northumberland. Service at 12 noon on Tuesday 30th June at St. Mary's Church, Thornbury, South Glos. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to St. George's Church, Fairford or The Royal Medical Benevolent Fund c/o L & J Otwell, 1 Quaker Lane, Thornbury, South Glos.

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OBITUARIES

BENNY GREEN

Benny Green, writer, broadcaster and jazz musician, died of cancer on June 22 aged 70. He was born on December 9, 1927.

In an extraordinarily prolific output which took him far beyond the jazz which was his first love, Benny Green was variously saxophonist, deviser of entertainments, writer of books and lyrics for musicals, novelist, broadcaster, Shavian, cricket fan, journalist and P.G. Wodehouse enthusiast. In almost all these spheres he performed in a manner that was far more than competent.

Thus, as a tenor saxophonist he played to an international standard, having been with Ronnie Scott in his early days and with the Stan Clinton band. Although his formal education had stopped in the sixth form of a grammar school, by dint of voracious reading he turned himself into a reviewer of the first rank and was a respected book reviewer for The Spectator from 1970 to 1980.

Whatever he wrote was never less than judicious — and frequently had a razor edge to it. His writing for The Observer, where he was jazz critic from 1958 to 1977, was very far from being merely the informed but too kindly reflections of the superannated jazz buff. He was quite capable of throwing nitric acid on those occasions when he felt decent standards had been violated in performance.

Green brought the same penetration and wit to his broadcasting, a medium in which he excelled. The Sunday afternoon Radio 2 music show, The Art of the Songwriter, which he broadcast until only a month ago, was so popular that when the BBC removed it from the airwaves in the 1980s placard-waving protesters picketed Broadcasting House until it was reinstated.

The son of David Green and Fanny Trayer, Benny Green was of quintessentially London Jewish background. Although born in Leeds, he grew up, as he always put it, "on the slummy edge of Marylebone". His elementary education was at Clifton Street Junior Mixed, which he loved; thereafter he was, in his own words, "uneducated" at St. Marylebone Grammar School, a pedagogic institution for which he always retained a vivid — though always amused — dislike. Gentility, both social and intellectual, reigned in the classroom. When Green mentioned in an essay that Cleopatra had had a son by Julius Caesar, the Latin mistress threw his exercise book at him and told him he was "only fit to be a barrow boy".

"We were given to understand," Green later recalled, "that Cleopatra had died a virgin, that Dido and Aeneas were just good friends, and that those lines in Venus and Adonis where the goddess insists: 'Gaze on my lips; and if those hills be dry / Stray flowers where the pleasant fountains lie' were connected in some vague and unspecified way with landscape architecture."

War temporarily rescued Green from this bogus minor public school ambience. At 14 he decided he had had enough and was sent with a host of similarly minded dissidents to an institution for the displaced called the North London Emergency Secondary School. This provided, if nothing else, an education in the world of the streets. At that time Green also joined the West Central Jewish Lads Club. Here his precocious talent on the saxophone was encouraged and he was able to give his first public performances.

Green later returned to school to pass in five School Certificate subjects but left



Green: jazz saxophonist and autodidact who made himself a respected critic

again in 1946 to study jazz at the London College of Music. By the age of 20 he was embarked on a full-time career as a saxophonist and in 1953 was named Most Promising New Jazz Musician. But he was also continuing his education in the humanities through courses in English and history at the City

Lit, near Drury Lane, and when, in 1958, the opportunity came to write a jazz column for The Observer he jumped at it. In tandem with this he also wrote as film critic for Punch from 1972 and this in turn overlapped with his stint as a literary critic for The Spectator. His broadcasting career had

begun soon after he joined The Observer. From 1959 he was a regular record reviewer for what was then the BBC Third Programme, and he was seldom off the air thereafter. Besides radio listeners, he was also familiar to television audiences. Apart from his jazz playing, he was generally busy setting

up a show or providing material for one. He wrote both book and lyrics for Boots with Strawberry Jam at the Nottingham Playhouse in 1968; he did a revised libretto for Showboat at the Adelphi, London, in 1972; his admiration for Cole Porter led to his co-devising the show Cole, for the Mermaid Theatre, London, in 1974. This last was succeeded by Oh Mr Porter, also at the Mermaid, in 1977. But showbiz and broadcasting apart, Green kept on writing. He really loved writing although, as Alan Coren who employed him as film and TV critic at Punch has observed, "He always looked like a jazz musician whatever he was doing."

His books reflected his catholic interests: that in jazz naturally gave rise to The Reluctant Art (1962); Blame It on My Youth (1964) was a heavily jazz-leaning novel; Shaw's Champions (1978) gave a witty sidelight on a nearly forgotten aspect of George Bernard Shaw — his fascination with the prize ring and its protagonists; P. G. Wodehouse: A Literary Biography reflected another side of the character of a man who was always an English patriot. Above all, there was his immense labour of love: the four volumes of the Wisden Anthology he edited between 1979 and 1983, covering Wisden from 1840 to 1982. At his death Green was working on a book on Ronnie Scott and a concordance of the works of Gilbert and Sullivan.

But he continued playing jazz almost to the end, in spite of suffering from cancer of the jaw; his session last year with his saxophonist son Leo at Pizzoni on the Park was acknowledged by all who witnessed it as a brave performance and a moving experience. Benny Green is survived by his wife Antoinette, whom he married in 1962, and by their daughter and three sons.

ANNE WOOD

Anne Wood, singer, opera administrator and teacher, died on June 12 aged 90. She was born on August 2, 1907.

AFTER a successful career as a contralto in the concert hall before the war, Anne Wood played a leading part in the development of two opera companies and an opera school. She went on to become a popular singing teacher. The two companies, English Opera Group and Phoenix Opera, were each well regarded but both were killed off, in Wood's opinion, at the hands of the musical establishment.

The English Opera Group was merged with a bigger organisation and Phoenix, which took opera around the country, closed for lack of funding. Although she fought to save them, Wood was unsuccessful and eventually retired from administration to teach both privately and at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

After going to school at St Mary's, Caine, Anne Wood studied singing with George Parker, Elena Gerhardt and Eva de Reusz. She joined the BBC Singers in 1934 at the same time as Peter Pears, who was to become a lifelong friend. Two years later she gave the first performance of a now lost song by "Luard Pears" (the singer used one of his middle names for his few compositions), a setting of a love poem by Robert Nichols entitled When within my arms I hold you.

Although she had already been involved in many live broadcasts for the BBC, Wood's debut on disc came in 1936 when, together with Pears, she recorded Peter Warlock's Corpus Christi Carol, conducted by Leslie Woodgate. Her friendship with Pears blossomed and the two lived close to each other in London. The tenor recalled in his diary later that year that his sailing to New York had been delayed overnight by fog. When the train was at last ready to leave Waterloo, "dear Anne turned up at the platform and gave me a lovely red carnation".

For a short time in the 1960s Pears and Benjamin Britten had a flat on the top floor of Wood's London home. During the Second World War, Wood, a fluent German speaker, was employed by the Ministry of Economic Warfare working on "black" propaganda and monitoring enemy broadcasts. By night she drove an ambulance.

As a resourceful interpreter of modern music, Wood was asked to take part in some significant first performances including, in 1950, the British premiere of Britten's Spring Symphony, the composer's first large-scale choral and orchestral work. Then, in 1948, she joined the English Opera Group, a year after its founding, to work as administrator and artistic director alongside Britten, John Piper and Eric Crozier. The company's raison d'être was

to devote itself "to the creation and performance of new operas... and to encourage poets and playwrights to tackle the writing of librettos in collaboration with composers". By her own admission, Wood had no idea what was expected of her, and she was gently coached in the art of administration by Crozier, who explained such details as why it was the management's responsibility to provide rail tickets for visiting artists.

It soon became apparent that many native singers were having difficulties with contemporary British operas, including The Rape of Lucretia and Albert Herring. So the Opera Studio evolved within the English Opera Group, with Wood becoming its copincipal alongside the soprano Joan Cross in 1949. It became the London Opera School in 1952 and the National School of Opera seven years later.

Although the school was a pioneer of this type of post-graduate education, there was competition on the horizon and the well-funded London Opera Centre, an offshoot of Sir Georg Solti's Covent Garden, took over in 1964. Wood and Cross were both offered positions in the new organisation but instead chose that moment to leave, preferring to provide all-round coaching.

Wood then formed Phoenix Opera, in 1965, "to take a varied repertoire of opera and operetta sung in English to those regional audiences which have few or no opportunities of seeing live performances". Phoenix emerged from a group which had mounted a production of Nicholas Maw's two-act comic opera One Man Show, with funding from the London County Council. With Joan Cross, William Chappell, Ralph Koltai and Vlem Tausky as artistic directors and Wood as general manager, Phoenix began with a series of performances of Così fan tutte, culminating in a spectacular run at the Bath Festival in 1966, with Yehudi Menuhin making his debut in the pit.

Under the auspices of the British Council, Phoenix Opera visited Austria and Yugoslavia in 1975 but, much to Wood's disappointment, the company's Arts Council funding was withdrawn just a few months later, in favour of the English Music Theatre Company (the successor to the English Opera Group with which Wood had originally been involved). This loss of backing put an end to regular seasons, but there were occasional Phoenix Opera performances for the rest of the decade.

Anne Wood, who never married, could not cook. She was helped at home by her platonic companion of many years, Johanna Peters, a former pupil and member of Phoenix Opera and latterly head of opera at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She survives her.



Anne Wood helped to establish two opera companies

CARDINAL ANASTASIO BALLESTRERO

Cardinal Anastasio Ballestrero, former Archbishop of Turin, died on June 21 aged 84. He was born on October 3, 1913.

IT IS just 100 years since the image on the Turin Shroud was fully revealed, when an Italian photographer, Secondo Pia, first saw what appears to be a body that has been whipped, speared, nailed to a cross and crowned with thorns emerging as a negative on the photographic plate in his darkroom on February 28, 1898. Since then, the shroud has been venerated and visited by millions (including three times by the present Pope).

and the subject of the most wide-ranging speculations. Since Leonard Cheshire revived interest in the shroud with a television programme in the 1950s, it has variously been described as a painting, though it stubbornly refuses to fit into any iconographic tradition, attributed to radiation, and identified with a fraudulent attempt to establish a profitable shrine in the 14th century. Some have claimed that DNA from the shroud can shed light on the Virgin Birth. It has even been said to be the result of Leonardo da Vinci's otherwise unrecorded invention of photography. Shrines are still big business, and the press was wrong

to imagine that the announcement by Cardinal Anastasio Ballestrero that it dated from between 1260 and 1390 would put a stop to this cottage industry. When, in 1988, the cardinal announced the outcome of the carbon-dating tests that he had authorised on the 14ft by 3ft cloth, he said that he saw "no reason for the Church to put these results in doubt"; but he also said that the Church had never claimed that the shroud was a relic, only that it was an inspiring icon. And since no one has satisfactorily demonstrated exactly what it is, the speculation has continued.

Anastasio Alberto Ballestrero was born in Genoa and entered the order of Carmelite monks when he was 16. He was ordained a priest at 22 and became a lecturer in theology. He served two terms as Superior General of the worldwide order from 1955, visiting hundreds of monasteries and convents, and participating in the Second Vatican Council. In 1973 he became Archbishop of Bari in southern Italy, and in 1977 he was promoted to the great industrial archdiocese of Turin, and the following year, for the first time in four decades, the shroud went on public display. Three million people saw it in a matter of months. Ballestrero then permitted some initial scientific testing. In 1979 he was appointed a cardinal and elected chairman of the Italian bishops' conference.

In 1983 the shroud was bequeathed by ex-King Umberto of Savoy to the Pope, who nominated the archbishop as its custodian. The shroud has been kept since the 1660s in Guarini's magnificent purpose-built chapel, Santissima Sindone, which with its astonishing series of Baroque domes and imposing silver al-

tar is the true miracle of the city. Unfortunately the chapel was badly damaged by fire last year, though a pious fireman rescued the shroud from behind its bulletproof glass. In 1986 Ballestrero caused a stir among the Turinese by appointing six priests to deal with a growing demand for exorcism among people who claimed to be possessed by devils. The priests were equipped with more than holy water, he said; they had been trained in theology, anthropology and psychology. But it was the carbon dating of 1988 that caused worldwide headlines. Initially, 12½ square inches of the linen was to be cut off for the carbon-14 tests, but only half of this was finally removed. After long negotiation, separate blind tests — using two other pieces of cloth of known age as controls — were conducted in Oxford, Arizona and Zurich, with Dr Michael Tite of the British Museum as scientific scrutineer.

Although the shroud has been damaged by fire (in 1532), possibly touched up by artists using red pigment, had holes burnt through it and a piece removed, and apparently been boiled in oil, the scientists were adamant in dating it to the medieval period. Professor Edward Hall of Oxford said: "Some people may continue to fight for the authenticity of the shroud, like the Flat Earth Society, but this settles it once and for all as far as we are concerned." But Cardinal Ballestrero took a different line: "By entrusting the evaluation of these results to science, the Church confirms its respect and veneration for this icon of Christ."

Ballestrero retired in 1989. The author of a number of books of meditations, he passed his remaining years in a monastery in Liguria.



Ballestrero, official guardian of the Turin Shroud

PERSONAL COLUMN

FOR SALE: A BIRTHDAY Newspaper Original... UK HOLIDAYS: KESINGTON Superior... FLATSHARE: CHELSEA Flat, Room 660sq...

OVERSEAS TRAVEL: PORTUGAL & Canada... MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS: 16-18... SUMMER SALE: 100's of new and second hand pianos...

SITUATIONS WANTED: RESPONSIVE ASSISTANT... ANNOUNCEMENTS: SARGENT CANCER CARE FOR CHILDREN...

The Annual General Meeting of The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association - Forces Help will be held at the Council House, College Green, Bristol at 2.45pm on Thursday 2nd July, 1998.

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NEWS

Anti-sleaze chief drops Porter

THE official anti-sleaze watchdog backed down last night and cut his links with Dame Shirley Porter, the former council leader at the centre of the Westminster gerrymandering scandal.

Lord Neill of Bladen, QC, said that the "perceived conflict" between his roles as chairman of the Committee on Standards of Public Life and as Dame Shirley's barrister would be likely to impede the committee's work.

Tories forced to tighten their belts

The Tory financial crisis has become so acute a moratorium was imposed yesterday at Central Office on any expenditure, even by Cecil Parkinson, the party chairman, on items over £250. Company credit cards, which were given to key officials for party business, have been withdrawn.

Theory takes off

Two feathered dinosaurs found in China lend fresh support to the idea that birds are descended from dinosaurs.

Home together

Macaulay Culkin, 17, the former child star of the Home Alone films, has married his teenage fiancée in a private ceremony attended only by close friends and family.

Christie admission

Lindford Christie has admitted to the High Court that he was aggressive towards a drug tester after he said he suspected all athletes had used drugs.

Hooligan alert

Strict and urgent measures against football hooligans are being considered by Germany amid reports of plans for a battle with English fans.

Education warning

With the launch of the education action zones, ministers have thrown down the gauntlet to vested interests in the education establishment who they said had let many children down.

'Failure' over abuse

An inquiry has accused a local authority of making "serious mistakes" when it failed to act on allegations of abuse of mentally handicapped adults in two residential homes in Stoke Poges in Buckinghamshire.

'Widow' Chirac sips from bitter Cup

President Chirac's wife, Bernadette, has revealed that she is forced to dine in front of the television in monastic silence as her husband watches the World Cup. The French President insists on seeing as many matches as he can and forbids his wife from talking until the final whistle.

Bright future ended

The first woman chairman of Mensa, the society for people with a high IQ, has been sacked after only nine months in office amid accusations of political intrigue and backbiting.

Bullying victim to sue

A woman who claims that bullying at school drove her to the brink of suicide is suing the education authority for failing to protect her.

Belgian road plea

Belgians demanded action against drink-driving after an accident that highlighted habits that make Belgium's roads among the most dangerous in Europe.

Yeltsin raises alarm

President Yeltsin has warned that Russia's financial crisis has reached alarming proportions and demanded urgent steps to avert social unrest.

Nerve gas revelation

United Nations weapons inspectors have found compelling evidence that Iraq placed deadly VX nerve gas in its missile warheads before the Gulf War.

Mothers 'beaten'

A Palestinian human rights group claims that Palestinian police beat mothers of prisoners held by Israel when the women went to the self-rule authorities to seek financial support.



A Malaysia Airlines plane scrapes its wing on landing at Hong Kong's Kai Tak airport. None of the 374 passengers was hurt.

BUSINESS

Rate warning: The latest increase in interest rates risks tipping the economy into recession, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development claims.

Offers sought: Pearson said it would consider offers for the Madame Tussauds waxworks Museum and other leisure venues, including Alton Towers and the London Planetarium.

Trouble in store: Sears is to go ahead with the demerger of Selfridges even though the department store said sales were down 4 per cent year-on-year.

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 59.6 to 5772.0. The pound rose 0.26 cents to \$1.6653 and fell 0.16 pennig to DM2.9997. The pound index fell to 106.7 from 106.8.

SPORT

World Cup: Italy and Chile qualified for the second round from group B. Italy beat Austria 2-1 to finish top of the group, while Chile drew 1-1 with Cameroon.

Tennis: Martina Hingis, the defending champion, won her opening match against Lisa Raymond 7-5, 6-3 on a rain-affected second day at Wimbledon.

Rugby union: England lost 62-14 to New Zealand Maoris, the fourth time in five games on their southern-hemisphere tour that they have conceded a half-century of points.

Cricket: David Lloyd, the England coach, said that he had never felt so down as he did after the ten-wicket defeat by South Africa in the second Test at Lord's.

ARTS

Heavy metal fest: While other summer pop festivals are struggling to sell tickets, the Ozfest lured a capacity crowd, proving that heavy metal is alive and well.

Spiritfields premiere: Any doubts that Giles Swayne is the most accomplished choral composer in Britain should be swept aside by the premiere of his new "requiem" The Silent Land.

Opera House: "Even if the Royal Opera House is not prepared to come out of its bunker, the Government must, if there is going to be a solution to the ROH's difficulties," Mary Allen writes.

Boosting books: The organisers of the Carnegie Medal think they have found a way to make reading cool for boys and girls.

FEATURES

Au revoir: Valerie Grove bids adieu to Jean Guéguinou, the French Ambassador to London.

Name fame: Bel Mooney tries to solve the issue of what to call a married woman who uses her maiden name in her professional life.

Family cool: Despite their parents' liberal upbringing, the supposedly coolest kids in Europe share a single ambition: they want to marry, have children and live happily ever after. Young Britons, says Celia Brayfield, want to protect their families from infidelity and materialism.

HOME

Irish gem: One of Ireland's most spectacular houses, a Georgian house by the sea in south Dublin, is for sale. Affluent film directors such as Neil Jordan and other media stars live near by.

THE PAPERS

The firm Indo-Russian handshake over the nuclear reactor deal last weekend marks a major milestone in India's march towards becoming a full-fledged nuclear energy capable nation. Washington's disappointment could be due to the fact that Moscow has effectively thwarted US efforts to dislodge Russia from the lucrative nuclear energy markets in this part of the world.

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Earl Spencer gives his first television interview since the death of the Princess of Wales. Diana: My Sister, The Princess (BBC1, 8pm) Review: Joe Joseph does not need scientists to tell him that boys are different from girls. Pages 46, 47.

OPINION

A matter of record There is, indeed, a strong argument for preserving the tapes of lobby briefings. It was too cavalier of the press secretary to dismiss the "seriousness" of these tapes and to say "we're not keeping them for posterity".

Friends in need If his ethical foreign policy means anything, Robin Cook should be lobbying for a postponement of Cambodian elections, and for the deployment of international teams to see that the conditions are met before setting a new date.

Table football Silent TV dinners at the Elysée are not just an offence to French culture. They also betray the country that invented feminism.

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS Each nation's jurisprudence is as different as its medicine and its politics. To British ears the handling of the Woodward case by the Massachusetts authorities was beyond belief.

BRONWEN MADDOX The American fashion for portraying China as the latest Great Satan is hysterical, a primitive fear that if the Chinese take the photograph of a president, they also take his power.

ALAN COREN This morning, when I sat down in the attic to kibble my weekly article, I discovered that the letter between b and d, had ceased to function on my computer keyboard.

OBITUARIES Benny Green, writer, jazzman, broadcaster; Cardinal Anastasio Ballestrero, former Archbishop of Turin; Anne Wood, opera administrator.

LETTERS Minimum wage; party defections; regulation of professions; Church schools; men ironing.

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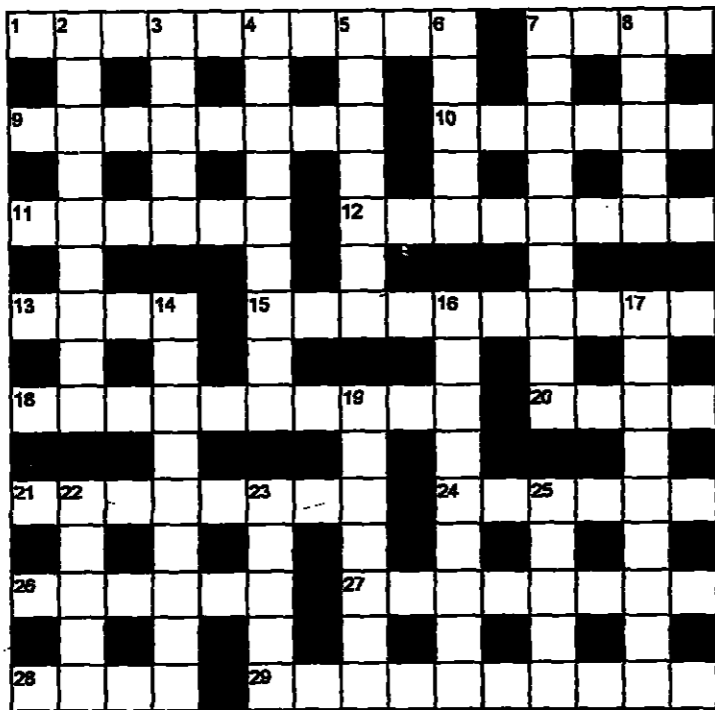
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FILMS Jennifer Aniston, of TV's Friends, shown with Paul Rudd, stars in The Object of My Affection.

BOOKS Erica Wagner is entranced by modern fairytales from Australia.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,826



- ACROSS 1 Military government making poet cut grass (7,3). 7 Prepare to set off and run together (4). 9 Sluggish breed for the Derby, say (4,4). 10 Raid no different from this? (6). 11 Look for an opening in the church (6). 12 Application to work in commercial enterprise (8). 13 Long story about an amusing person (4). 15 Head of department framed by bigger gun, perhaps in resentment (10). 18 It's reckless, for a start, to annoy hives (6-4). 20 Measure of insulation provided by clothes (4). 21 Fill old man in France full of food (8).

Solution to Puzzle No 20825. A grid of letters for a crossword puzzle solution.

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HOURS OF DARKNESS. Sun sets: 4.44 am. Moon sets: 9.22 pm.

FORECAST

General: East Angles, southeast England and the East Midlands will have a warm, humid day with a little hazy sunshine, but thickening cloud will bring a threat of heavy showers later.

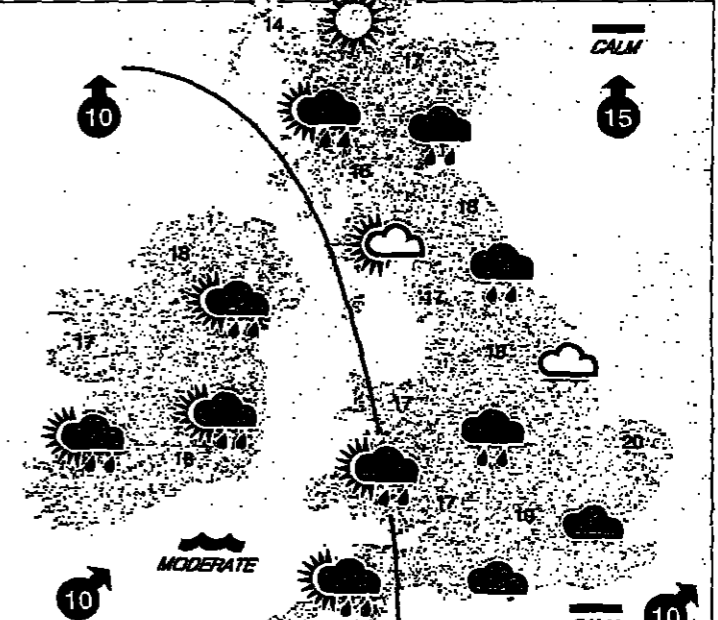
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, wind, etc. for various UK locations.

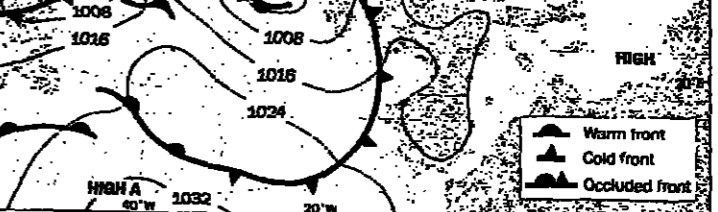
ABROAD

Table with columns for location, temperature, sun, rain, etc. for various international locations.

MOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: high A will stay slow-moving, with little change in pressure. Low A will stay slow-moving and will deepen slightly.



HIGH TIDES

Table with columns for location, AM, HT, PM, HT, TODAY, AM, HT, PM, HT.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Leamington, East Riding, 23C (73F); lowest day temp: Fair Isle, 13C (54F); Highest rainfall: Macclesfield, Lancashire, 0.9in, highest sunshine: Looe, Shetland, 13.2hr.

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THE TIMES

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TODAY



ECONOMICS
Fragile China is not the answer, says Janet Bush
PAGE 29



ARTS
How schools are bringing the boys to book
PAGES 37-38



SPORT
Hingis provides service with a smile at Wimbledon
PAGES 39-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY JUNE 24 1998

OECD report argues against increase Rate rise may tip economy into recession

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Bank of England's decision to raise interest rates this month risks tipping the economy into recession, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The OECD's latest report on Britain's economic prospects, compiled before the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee voted to raise rates by 0.25 points to 7.5 per cent on June 4, said that the effect of a string of base rate increases and a tightening in fiscal policy had not yet worked their way through to the economy.

Further restraint at this stage would risk tipping the economy into recession, the OECD said.

The OECD, which tracks the world's industrialised economies, predicted before the June rate rise that the UK economy would slow sharply this year, partly because of tight monetary and fiscal policy and because the boost from the sale of shares in demutualising building societies would fade. In addition, it highlighted the impact of weak foreign demand, exacerbated by the crisis in Asia.

Its report was written before the Government set out higher public spending for the next three years. Yesterday, Deane Julius, one of the MPC's academic members and the only member to vote for a rate cut in May, told a financial markets conference that, although she had not seen the Bank of England's analysis of

the new spending programme, "it may well end up in the inflationary balance".

Without knowledge of the new spending plans, the OECD predicted that growth would fall to only 1.7 per cent this year from 3.3 per cent in 1997 and would show barely any recovery in 1999 with growth of 1.8 per cent.

The OECD acknowledged the current fears of the Bank of England's MPC about inflationary pressures, saying that private sector pay growth would probably mean that inflation holds a little above target this year.

It said: "The current situation poses a serious challenge for the conduct of monetary policy. Despite the considerable tightening of monetary policy, domestic demand has so far not slowed much and the labour market has continued to tighten rapidly."

However, the report added: "As soon as the slowdown of economic activity comes through, the fears of overheating will fade and the exchange rate could be expected to decline."

The OECD predicted that slowing growth would increase unemployment and that this would reduce earnings growth to a level that was compatible with the Government's inflation target.

The OECD's report on the British economy coincided with figures showing that the UK current account plunged into the red to the tune of £3.2

billion in the first quarter of this year, the highest deficit for more than five years.

The deterioration in Britain's current account was partly due to a large increase in government transfers to the European Union, payments which tend to be erratic in their timing and should mean lower payments in the remainder of the year. Transfers surged to £2.1 billion from £500 million in the final quarter of last year.

However, there was dramatic evidence of the impact of sterling's strength on Britain's trade performance, both in goods and services.

Britain's visible trade deficit grew to £4.7 billion in the first quarter from £4.2 billion in the final quarter of last year. Imports fell by 0.6 per cent, evidence that domestic demand is starting to weaken. However, under pressure from the strong pound, exports fell by 2.4 per cent.

Compounding the damaging effect of sterling on trade in goods was its impact on invisible earnings, normally strong enough to keep the current account as a whole in surplus. Britain's surplus on trade in services slipped to £1.6 billion from £2.2 billion.

Separate figures from the Office for National Statistics confirmed its preliminary estimate of 0.5 per cent growth in the first quarter.

Commentary, page 27
Australia goes West, page 29



Madame Tussaud's, the London waxwork museum, is to be released from the Pearson portfolio

Pearson sets off scramble to buy Tussauds

By JASON NISSÉ

NEMESIS, the Chamber of Horrors and the London Planetarium could soon be under new ownership after Pearson yesterday put Tussauds Group up for sale. American buyers including Time Warner, Seagram and Anheuser-Busch are expected to lead the bidding for the business, which attracts 9.5 million visitors a year to its portfolio of attractions, which include Madame Tussaud's, Alton Towers and Chessington World of Adventures.

Tussauds made operating profits of £35 million on £107 million of sales last year. Recently analyst Salomon Smith Barney valued the business at £370 million.

Pearson, which has increasingly focused on its media interests since Marjorie Scardino became chief executive, said yesterday that it had received a number of approaches for the business.

However, last week's deal to sell the Tussauds 40.5 per cent stake of Port Aventura to Seagram for £58 million removed potential problems that could jeopardise any sale. Pearson will go ahead with the £18 million Tussauds deal to buy Thorpe Park from RMC Group. It believes that the potential of the site, which is southwest of London, makes it more valuable within the Tussauds portfolio than outside it.

Lazard Brothers, in which Pearson has a 50 per cent stake, will handle the sale. Though a trade buyer is likely, high prices paid by private equity groups such as Nikko, Nomura and Cinven for businesses would not rule out a financial purchaser.

Commentary, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	5772.0 (+59.8)
Nikkei	2,852.39 (+14.65)
Dow Jones	13054.60 (-254.49)
New York	8828.45 (+117.23)
S&P Composite	1119.49 (+16.28)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5% (5.75%)
Long Bond	100% (10.6%)
Yield	5.64% (5.68%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	7% (7.2%)
Libor long gilt	108.73 (108.60)

STERLING	
New York	1.6670 (1.6750)
London	1.6657 (1.6725)
DM	2.8998 (3.0011)
FF	10.0530 (10.0500)
SFR	2.5034 (2.5045)
Yen	231.55 (230.94)
\$ Index	108.7 (108.8)

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$14.40 (\$13.75)
GOLD	
London close	\$294.45 (\$295.05)

Galen merger
Northern Ireland's Galen Holdings, the pharmaceutical company, plans a £1.5 billion merger with Ferring Pharmaceuticals, a privately owned European company. Page 26

Coke float
Coca-Cola Beverages, the soft drinks bottler, will be priced between 125p and 160p on its debut on the London Stock Exchange next month, valuing the group at between £1.3 billion and £1.7 billion. Page 27

Selfridges pair set to collect bumper one-off bonuses

By ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

VITTORIO RADICE and Peter Williams, chief executive and finance director of Selfridges, the Oxford Street department store, are in line to earn one-off bonuses equivalent to 50 per cent of their salaries if the demerger from the troubled retailer Sears goes through.

The two men have to do no more than be with the firm, and not have served notice of departure, on July 31 next year to qualify for the payments.

Details of the one-off bonuses are included in the Selfridges stock market listing particulars. These show that sales were 4 per cent down in the first third of its financial year, compared with the previous year. Selfridges said that fashion sales were below expectations and blamed lower tourist spending.

The unencouraging news also led analysts to reduce their expectations of what Selfridges would be worth when trading in the shares begins next month. One said:

"We had been thinking in terms of about £350 million but our feeling now is that could be on the high side." The group's properties are valued at £325 million.

Messrs Radice and Williams have also been awarded a large pay increase. Mr Radice gets a 21 per cent rise to £225,000 a year and Mr Williams gets a 32 per cent increase to £125,000.

Both men may also qualify for bonuses worth another 50 per cent of salary if the company meets unspecified profits goals. Mr Radice also needs to reach "personal targets set by the company" to qualify but the package could send his total pay for the next year to £450,000.

A spokeswoman said that the one-off demerger bonuses were put in place by Sears because it believes continuity of management is vital for the health of the business.

Commentary, page 27

Thomson scheme to start early

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THOMSON Travel Group, which came to the stock market in a £1.7 billion flotation last month, has brought forward the starting date for a shareholders' perks scheme.

Its Founders' Club will be launched on July 1 instead of September 1 in a move that may appease hundreds of people who reportedly failed to receive application forms for shares until it was too late.

More than 570,000 people who bought shares when the group floated are permanent members of the club. All 750,000 people who registered an interest in buying shares are entitled to honorary membership until the end of the year.

Hundreds of people who registered an interest well before the deadline did not receive application forms on time. An inquiry into the details of the flotation by the Securities and Futures Authority, the City watchdog, continues. The shares fell 3p to 187½p yesterday.

Surprise win for Microsoft in anti-trust battle

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

MICROSOFT won a surprise reprieve in its legal battle with the Justice Department yesterday. An appeals court in Washington reversed an earlier ruling that prevented the software house from selling Windows 95 and the Internet Explorer as a package.

In December, the Justice Department had persuaded a federal district court to force Microsoft to "unbundle" its operating system and its Internet browser to give other browser makers a fair chance to compete. The appeals court overruled the district court, saying it had exceeded its authority and misread a 1995 agreement between Microsoft and the Justice Department.

The decision has no direct effect on Microsoft's other legal problems, but it is expected to help the company in the anti-trust trial scheduled to start in September. The trial covers the marketing of browsers and Windows 98. The judges said the broader

anti-trust case may supersede the December case. They wrote: "The Justice Department may well regard further pursuit of this case as unprofitable, especially given the alternative avenues developing in its recently launched separate attacks on Microsoft's practices."

Bob Finch, a fund manager at Aelus Investment, said yesterday's ruling "gives Microsoft some real breathing space".

Microsoft also won a second argument with regard to the December case. The federal district court had appointed a "special master" to advise it on technical details. Microsoft complained that Lawrence Lessig, a Harvard University law professor, was a known Microsoft critic and should not have been appointed. The appeals court agreed, calling the appointment "either a clear abuse of discretion or an exercise of wholly non-existent discretion".

Gersh joins procession leaving EMI

By CHRIS AYRES

GARY GERSH, head of EMI's Capitol Records, the American label famous for its association with Frank Sinatra, yesterday became the latest executive at the troubled London-listed music company to resign.

In just four months EMI has lost its US chief executive, its UK president and now the head of one of its biggest and most famous record labels. An industry source said: "These people are not leaving of their own volition, they're leaving because their contracts

have not been renewed. The company has not been happy with the performance of Capitol."

The latest resignation comes after EMI reported dismal annual results and called off takeover talks with Canada's Seagram, owner of Hollywood's Universal Studios, which went on to buy PolyGram for \$10.4 billion (£6.3 billion).

Sir Colin Southgate, EMI's chairman, has faced harsh criticism over his management style, in particular the confusion over boardroom promotion which led to the resignation of Jim

Field, US chief executive, with a £12.5 million payoff.

Since then, Ken Berry, who built up Virgin Records and signed the Spice Girls, has been put in charge of overhauling the company's lacklustre US operations. Mr Berry has instigated a dramatic shake-up which has included the closure of EMI's New York office and the resignation of many of the executives who originally appointed Mr Gersh.

Mr Gersh, 43, is credited with discovering Nirvana, the grunge band whose lead singer, Kurt Cobain,

committed suicide at the height of his fame in the early 1990s. Mr Gersh is thought to have clashed with Mr Berry mainly over cost-cutting and profitability targets.

Capitol has signed some successful artists, however, including the UK's Radiohead and American bands such as the Foo Fighters and the Beastie Boys.

Mr Gersh, who is expected to receive a significant payoff after his five-year stint at Capitol, will be replaced temporarily by Roy Lott, Mr Berry's deputy.

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BAT subsidiary secures Florida appeal victory

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

A LANDMARK verdict against Brown & Williamson Tobacco, the BAT subsidiary, has been overturned by a Florida appeals court, handing US tobacco companies a rare legal victory.

In the first case of its kind, Grady Carter, who smoked Lucky Strikes for 44 years, had been awarded \$750,000 (£450,000) in 1996 after being diagnosed with lung cancer in 1991.

A BAT lawyer said: "We are gratified that the court of appeals has applied the law in this case." He said the court's decision would have an impact on many cases pending.

BAT shares rose 26p to 592p yesterday. In August 1996, the Carter verdict sent BAT's shares down 14 per cent.

The Carter trial was the first verdict ever found against Brown & Williamson in a tobacco product liability case, the company said. In a unanimous opinion, the appeals court agreed with all of Brown & Williamson's points of appeal.

Galen plans £1.5bn pharmaceutical merger in Europe

By PAUL DURMAN

NORTHERN Ireland's Galen Holdings, the pharmaceutical company that has almost tripled in value since flotation last July, is planning a £1.5 billion merger with Ferring Pharmaceuticals, a privately owned European group.

Ferring is also very interested in the potential of the intravaginal ring that Galen has developed as a delivery vehicle for hormone replacement therapy. Jeffrey Hobbs, Ferring's chief financial officer, said the enlarged group would have UK sales of more than £50 million a year.

Mr Paulsen, the 47-year-old son of Ferring's founder, said the proposed merger grew out of his friendship with Allen McClay, 66, Galen's chairman, founder and largest shareholder. He said: "They are people who are on our wavelength. They are very down to earth - very factually oriented, not just a lot of talk."



Tim How of Majestic Wines, where sales growth has suffered from the bad weather

Building societies find the feeling is not mutual

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE claim by building societies to be consumer champions took a severe blow yesterday when the industry's watchdog revealed it had received a record number of complaints from the public last year.

man, said almost half of the initial complaints had related to the conversions of the Alliance & Leicester, Halifax, Woolwich, Bristol & West and Northern Rock. More than 7,000 people complained they had been wrongly excluded or deprived of their full entitlement to windfall shares when the societies floated on the stock market.

castigated building societies for misleading, confusing and withholding information from their customers. This had led him to investigate 1,478 mortgage and investment cases, an increase of 6.5 per cent on last year.

Cold April bad for Majestic

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in Majestic Wines, listed on the AIM, fell 30p to 470p after the company said sales growth in April was slower than expected because of the bad weather, especially at Easter.

like-for-like sales up 4 per cent in the first ten weeks of the current year. Majestic raised pre-tax profits by 63 per cent to £3.24 million on sales up by 21 per cent to £60.4 million in the year to end March 30.

has 73 shops, having opened three in the current year and eight last year. At least five more are to open this year. Tim How, chief executive, said: "The wine market is expanding and consumers are continuing to show an interest in a broader choice of better-quality wine. We continue to see considerable potential for the expansion of Majestic."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Laird Group shares value slumps by 21%

SHARES in the Laird Group lost 21 per cent of their value yesterday after problems in its car seals business forced the engineer to issue a profits warning. The shares dropped from 388½p to 306½p after Laird said pre-tax profits for the first half of 1998 will be close to £20 million compared with £34.7 million in the first half of 1997.

British Energy cuts jobs

BRITISH ENERGY is to cut up to 100 jobs in a £10 million drive to streamline its operations. The nuclear generator, which is merging its two divisions Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, is also likely to face a bill of more than £230,000 in severance pay to Peter Warry, chief executive of Nuclear Electric, who will leave in September.

Hartstone disposal

HARTSTONE GROUP, the troubled leather goods and accessories company, is selling its hosiery interests in Spain to New Hosiery Holdings SA for £25.2 million. The sale will result in a loss on disposal against net assets of £5.4 million.

Coffee at 17-month low

COFFEE dropped below \$1 a pound on Tuesday for the first time in more than 17 months. The International Coffee Organization said its latest daily market indicator price - its measure of the average wholesale cost - was 99.2 cents a pound.

Cambridge acquisition

CAMBRIDGE ANTIBODY TECHNOLOGY, the pharmaceuticals group, is to buy Aptein Inc for \$11 million (£6.6 million). Cambridge is paying two tranches of shares, the first of \$6 million when the transaction closes and the second, of \$5 million, after Aptein has received European patents for its key technology.

Oliver rebels urge vote

THE dissident shareholders in Oliver Group, which claim to speak for 29 per cent of the company and include the Oliver family, yesterday said that the shoe retailer should call an extraordinary meeting to oust its chairman, Denis Cassidy, and managing director, Martin Warrs.

AMP slips once again

SHARES in AMP, the Australian financial group, slid to A\$19.68 (£7.18) yesterday, a drop of 34 cents from Monday's closing price and below the closing average of A\$24 on its first day of trading more than a week ago.

Wagon earnings lift 15%

WAGON INDUSTRIAL, the engineering group, raised profits before tax and exceptional from £20.4 million to £22.5 million in the year to end March. Underlying earnings rose by 15 per cent to 28.2p although the total dividend was unchanged at 12p.

Airport take-offs boost TBI

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

INCREASED growth at regional airports helped year-end profits at TBI, the property and airports group, soar 26 per cent to £24.1 million last year.

Sweden, for about £17 million and recently acquired Orlando Sanford International airport in the US. Mr Brooks said TBI was looking to expand in the US and look at other areas such as New Zealand.



Brooks: Flying high

Minister puts late payers on notice

By JASON NISSÉ

BARBARA ROCHE, the small firms minister, is planning to "name and shame" large companies that fail to comply with the Companies Act by stating how long they take to pay suppliers.

In a study of the reports of 1,189 public limited companies reporting in the first year after this rule came into force, Dun & Bradstreet found that 644, or 54 per cent, failed to comply with government rules. If this percentage is replicated across all PLCs, it indicates that as many as 6,500 leading companies are breaking the law.

TOURIST RATES	
Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.82
Austria Sch	22.06
Belgium Fr	64.81
Canada \$	2.568
Cyprus Cyp	1.820
Denmark Kr	11.89
Egypt Pound	5.87
Finland Mk	5.85
France Fr	10.51
Germany Dm	3.16
Greece Dr	320
Hong Kong \$	13.71
Iceland	121
Ireland P	1.24
Israel Shk	6.47
Italy Lit	21.05
Japan Yen	245.36
Malta	0.887
Netherlands Gld	3.264
New Zealand \$	3.40
Norway Kr	13.34
Portugal Esc	218.13
S Africa Rd	9.77
Spain Ptas	205.72
Sweden Kr	15.00
Switzerland Fr	2.85
Turkey Lira	448.74
USA \$	1.770

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

FSA aims to limit cost of mis-selling inquiry

By MARIANNE CURPHEY
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

CITY regulators are looking at ways to cut the cost to insurers of investigating mis-sold personal pensions after protests from policyholders who said that they would ultimately foot the bill.

carry out research to find more efficient ways of tracking down victims of the pensions mis-selling scandal for Phase 2 of its review.

are about to retire or who have died is well under way, and is Phase 1 of the review. Phase 2 will concentrate on younger victims of mis-selling who were persuaded to leave occupational pension schemes in favour of inferior personal pensions.

insurance salesmen to have their National Insurance contributions paid directly into a personal pension.

inquiry were not narrowed down. An official of the FSA said: "We are looking for ways of narrowing the search without missing anyone out."

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Selfridges tries to float uphill



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

It is just as well that Sir Bob Reid is giving away Selfridges shares rather than trying to sell them. As a prospectus for a stock market flotation, the Selfridges story has all the appeal of a demand from the Inland Revenue.

Few would choose to float a business on the back of a trading picture that is truly grim and, even the company admits, is likely to remain so at least until the next century. But Sir Bob Reid is nothing if not pig-headed. He decided last year that Selfridges would be demerged from Sears and so it will be.

This is despite the fact that pre-tax profits of Selfridges for the year to January were less than half those of the previous year. Even allowing for the costs of reorganisation and restructuring, profits were the lowest they had been in five years.

Current trading is dire, partly as a result of the disruption being caused by the extensive refurbishment of the store, but some suspect it may also be registering that Selfridges is moving away from its customers in its pursuit of a love affair with fashion labels. Next year, says this antithesis of a sales document, the figures will be adversely affected by "continuing investment in the multi-site infrastructure". Translated, this means that Selfridges is gearing up to run more than one business, but there must be question marks over how many more the country

can accommodate. Harvey Nichols has embarked on the regional expansion trail first and probably nabbed the best localities, in high-spending Leeds and now Glasgow. Trafford Park, in Manchester, is to be the site of the first Selfridges venture out of London. The company's conviction that the brand will travel is embodied in the promise that "a commitment to a third store is unlikely to be made, before January 2000".

Much can happen before then, and one possibility is that a wealthy shopper will appear and buy Selfridges. The company insists that it has not been approached by any potential purchasers but it would be surprising if there had been some snooping around the business since Sears signalled that it was destined for independence.

The huge Oxford Street site is a one-off: Selfridges has paid its parent £280 million for the property, which includes the Selfridge Hotel and extensive car parking. But on trading figures, Selfridges is worth nothing like that amount. When the stock market puts a value on the business, it may be rather less than Healey & Baker's, providing the perfect opportunity for an

imaginative property man to move in on the company.

If salvation does not come in that form, chief executive Vittorio Radice may find his task increasingly awesome, as recession hits sales and Selfridges faces mounting bills. The prospectus reveals that warehousing for which the company currently pays its parent just £5,988 a year will be rather more expensive in three years time. The bill is due to rise to £726,000 a year. Ouch!

Call for calm is too late for Eddie

Were new Labour not so tediously po-faced, Gordon Brown might have recruited Corporal Jones from the Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard to his Monetary Policy Committee. One less precise, politically calculating academic would have been no great loss. How much better to salt dis-

cussion of interest rates with the legendary butcher's rallying cry: "Don't panic".

The OECD, having a Civil Service mentality, tries to be sensitive to the dignity of European and North American member governments in its annual reports on their economies. This year's survey of the UK was meant to be amenable. Revealingly, however, this intention was thwarted by the Bank of England, which unexpectedly put up base rates after the report had gone to press. So gung-ho have been the comments from the Bank that the markets are now primed for another rise.

This turn of events has left the OECD counselling against a policy move that has already been made. According to the OECD, it risks "tipping the economy into recession". Even before that, the economy was projected to grow by only 1.7 per cent this year and 1.8 per cent in 1998, which is at the low end of

the forecasting range. Had Corporal Jones been there, other MPC members might have been persuaded of the need for inaction. The ship of state takes a while to turn. It is taking longer than the Bank of England expected. Meanwhile, wage rises will accelerate and inflation rise above target before last year's monetary and fiscal tightening slows the economy, turns unemployment up and bites on wages and prices.

If the Bank keeps tightening the interest rate screw now, when the economy is about to turn, it will surely perpetuate the stop-go cycle that both Kenneth Clarke and Gordon Brown determined to end.

Already, business trends are diverging far more randomly than clichés about a two-tier economy justify. Every day, companies report dire and deteriorating conditions. Yet May was a wild time on the high street and City bonuses have boosted

growth in earnings. Such contrasts typify turning points. The clincher is the new perceived wisdom. Not long ago, Eddie George was derided for spoiling our fun. Now he is lambasted for not putting interest rates up more, and earlier. A sure sign, surely, that the economy is about to sag as sadly as a cooling soufflé.

Time for Lazards and Pearson to part?

Pearson was once famously described by a former director as "an investment trust without the tax advantages". Not so long ago, the group's portfolio stretched from fine wine and fine china through oil services and merchant banking to computer software and newspaper publishing. The process of weeding out the less synergistic oddments started before Marjorie Scardino and Sir Dennis Stevenson grasped the rudder, but under their guidance this self-proclaimed media group has started shaping itself to fit the designation. Out has gone the law and tax information operations, the stake in the Astra satellite, the dreadful Mindscape

and the pointless Future Publishing. In has come Simon & Schuster. Now, at last, Tussauds Group is being put on the block. There is little reason for Pearson to hold on to waxworks and Warwick Castle when someone else appears keen to pay as much as £400 million for the assorted entertainments.

Now Mrs Scardino might be wondering what owning 50 per cent of a merchant bank has to do with media. While Lazard Brothers is making a nice return, she may be disinclined to tackle the Lazard Partnership about selling the holding. And it is useful having a friendly banker alongside: no prizes for guessing who is advising Pearson on the Tussauds sale. But with the economy turning down and merger and acquisition activity beginning to cool off, if she is thinking of changing the relationship, now may be the time.

Our mutual fiends

AS NATIONWIDE members ponder whether they would rather have a windfall or the warm glow of mutuality, the Building Societies' Ombudsman has popped up to point out that mutuality may not be such a cuddly concept after all. The record number of complaints he has received, admittedly swollen by bungling demutualisers, contains a litany of bad behaviour by building societies. It makes them sound just like banks.

Float price set for bottler of Coca-Cola

By DOMINIC WALSH

COCA-COLA BEVERAGES, the soft drinks bottler, will be priced between 125p and 160p on its debut on the London Stock Exchange next month, valuing the group at between £1.3 billion and £1.7 billion.

In its pathfinder prospectus, published yesterday, the company pitches itself as a growth stock offering exposure to expanding Eastern and Central European markets through some of the world's best known brands: Fanta, Sprite and Coca-Cola itself.

CCB, of which the Coca-Cola Company (TCCC) will hold an initial 51 per cent, is being formed from the demerger of the Central and Eastern European operations of Coca-Cola Amatil, based in Australia, and the acquisition of TCCC's bottling operations in northern and central Italy, Coca-Cola Bevande Italia.

It will have a market population of almost 200 million, in 13 countries, and emphasises the relatively low level of fizzy drinks consumption in many

of them. Whereas annual consumption of Coca-Cola's products averages 139 8oz bottles a head in the EU, the figure in CCB's sphere of operations is just 62.

"We strongly believe we can fairly quickly move to the EU average," said Craig Owens, CCB's finance director. With its plants running at less than two-thirds capacity, the planned growth could easily be handled.

CCB has invested £531 million upgrading its bottling plants over the past three years and expects to spend only slightly less in the three years after its listing on the London and Australian stock exchanges. It will pay no dividend "in the next few years" in order to reinvest profits in the business.

In 1997, its sales volumes reached 561 million cases, with proforma turnover of £1.2 billion and operating profits of £47.8 million. This year it expects to lift volumes by around 10 per cent.

Snakeboard steers into fresh rescue

By CHRIS AYRES

DAVID LLOYD, the former tennis player who invested nearly £500,000 in Snakeboard, the steerable skateboard producer, has unveiled a fresh rescue package for the disaster-prone company.

Snakeboard, which attempted to launch its product in the US with only £3 million after joining the Alternative Investment Market in 1996, said it was in advanced merger negotiations with MV Sports & Leisure, the UK toys and leisure group. The company admits it needed closer to £100 million to market its product. Shares in Snakeboard were suspended yesterday at 34p, having floated at 34p.

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City Diary, page 29

Chloride has £50m war chest

By ADAM JONES

CHLORIDE GROUP has a war chest of £50 million for acquisitions to expand its uninterruptible power supply and safety systems activities.

The electronics group is looking at opportunities in the US and Europe and would not rule out bargain-hunting in Asia, where it has expanded its Thai manufacturing facility.

Profits before tax fell from £11.5 million to £10 million in the year to March 31, because of one-off gains in 1997. Earnings per share before exceptional items rose from 2.25p to 3.2p. A final dividend of 0.72p will be paid on August 21 as a foreign income dividend, making a total of 1p (0.65p). The shares fell 1 1/2p to 45p yesterday.

Carpentry price at three-year low

By ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in Carpentry, the carpet retailer, yesterday fell to their lowest for three years as the company published poor profit figures and gave a downbeat assessment of prospects.

The shares lost 4 1/2p - or 13 per cent - to finish at 27 1/2p. They are now at less than half the 64 1/2p at which they peaked in October 1996.

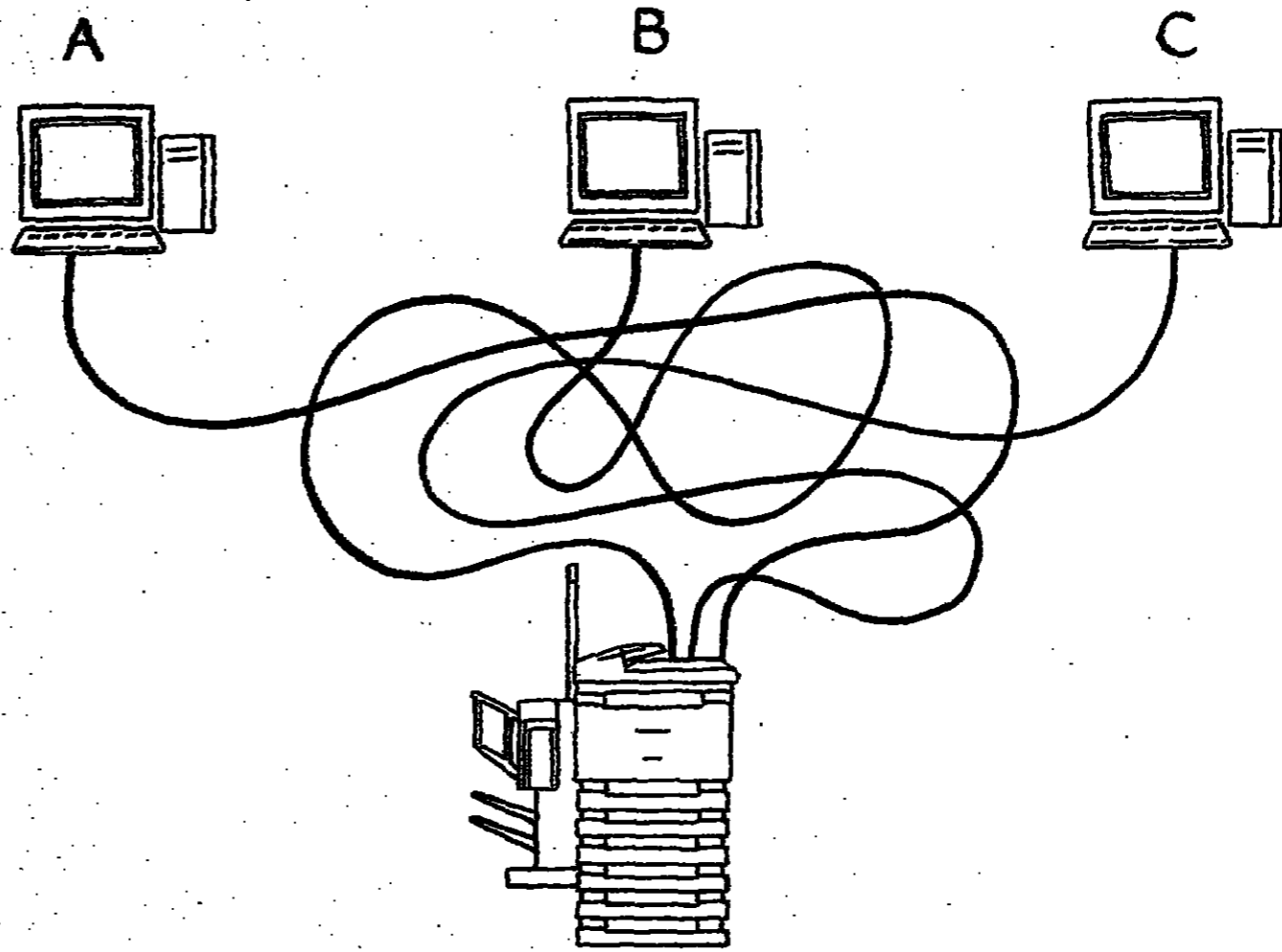
Poor consumer demand has been Carpentry's undoing, and Lord Harris of Peckham, chairman and chief executive, could offer little cheer yesterday. He said: "This year has been tough for Carpentry, especially the last four months of our financial year when trading conditions were the

most difficult we have ever experienced."

Lord Harris said that trading since the May 2 year-end was worse than in the equivalent period last year. Sales were 5 per cent down, he said.

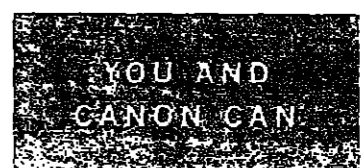
Pre-tax profits for the 12 months to May 2 slipped to £28.8 million, from nearly £31 million. The result was well below what many analysts had expected, and many revised their forecasts downwards.

Earnings per share fell to 20p, from 28.5p, but Carpentry still felt able to increase its dividend. Shareholders are to receive 22p in respect of the year just passed, 16 per cent up on the year before, with a final 12.5p due on September 14.



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Fragile China not the solution to Asian woes

President Clinton's visit to China this week has trained an uncomfortable focus on his Administration's political priorities. Many congressional critics are accusing the President of brushing aside difficult issues such as human rights abuses and China's role in building Pakistan's nuclear capability in the cause of constructive engagement and commercial advantage.

However, the trip also highlights new American priorities in the economic sphere. The US Federal Reserve may have ridden to the rescue of the yen last Thursday and orchestrated the weekend's Group of Seven meeting to discuss Japanese reform. It is clear, nonetheless, that American economic policy is increasingly skewed towards Beijing and away from Tokyo.

Until last week, the Administration had dismissed the idea of stabilising the yen, saying that the weakness of the currency simply reflected the mess that Japan is in. The view appeared to be that

despite the economic cost to America, a devaluation of the yen was the only sensible monetary policy for Tokyo to pursue.

The new ingredient, which triggered a U-turn on currency policy, was China. Throughout last week, Chinese officials upped the ante. First, they hinted darkly of the economic pain being suffered because of the yen's fall. Then, having failed to provoke a response from Washington, these warnings turned into outright threats to devalue the yuan.

It is quite possible that, because of a brilliant bluff by China, Washington has been forced into an alarmingly weak hand in its own game of brinkmanship with Tokyo. While the yen was in free-fall, Japan was under immense pressure to do something about its stagnant economy and rotten banks. Washington's helping hand

has now given Tokyo's politicians a wholly unjustified patina of respectability. Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's Prime Minister, will survive for just that bit longer. The Japanese economic crisis will be even more painfully prolonged and, for all the success of last week's brinkmanship, China and the rest of Asia will continue to suffer the consequences.

Of course, none of this would apply if America genuinely did bring promises of action from Japan as the *quid pro quo* for help with its currency but nobody in the financial markets really believes this.

What seems to be at work here is a seismic shift in America's perceptions of who it should be dealing with in Asia. Japan's evident failure to face up to its economic and banking problems have diminished its stature in the eyes of



JANET BUSH

America, perhaps for good. At the same time, Washington is almost childishly impressed with China's embrace of free market reforms, which seem to offer such a triumphant endorsement of the Anglo-Saxon model, as well as by the abundant promise of a huge potential market for American goods and know-how.

This underestimates the continuing importance to the Asian

economies of a healthy Japan and overestimates the distance China still has to travel to become a true engine for growth in the region.

For all its deep current troubles, Japan is still the second richest economy in the world (after America). Its crisis is not one of wealth or potential but of political leadership. With the right policies, Japan stands every chance of mobilising its riches and dragging itself and Asia out of depression.

China, for all its potential, faces tremendous problems. It is attempting to liberalise its command economy in an astonishingly telescoped timeframe and its political leaders are fearful of the social unrest that might result.

Already, the true level of unemployment in urban centres is reckoned to be above 10 per cent and, with all but 1,000 of 350,000 state-owned companies expected to

be allowed to fail, that figure is going to rise dramatically. The gap between the rich on China's developed coast and the poor in its underdeveloped interior is far wider than anything seen in Latin America.

Of course, America has a stake in trying to smooth the flight path to capitalism as much as it can and last week's intervention to support the yen was designed to bolster Chinese exporting power and stave off a devaluation that might trigger a second, devastating round of the Asian crisis and deeper depression.

It remains debatable whether devaluation was really on the cards. Although China is deeply worried about maintaining growth, its knows, far more intimately than America, that devaluation would destroy confidence in the capitalist project. In the short term, this could mean that Chinese

people could withdraw their substantial savings from fragile banks. In the long term, it would make it far harder to maintain a consensus in favour of painful economic reform and undermine China's new-found respectability as a member of the world economic community.

China is clearly enjoying the kudos of presiding over a stable currency while its old regional enemy, Japan, watches its own currency implode. A devaluation would undermine its attempts to take over from Japan as the natural leader of the region.

As both China and Hong Kong have shown this week, there are pragmatic and effective ways of easing the current economic pressure without devaluation. Hong Kong suspended land sales, China increased tax rebates to exporters. More of this can be expected in the months ahead. America should take these attempts to cope without devaluation at face value and turn its attention back to the woeful situation in Tokyo.

Australia goes West to escape Asia



The country has spent a decade trying to grab a share of the Asian economic boom. Now that the miracle has proved illusory, the markets are betting that Australia stands next in the firing line. The Government, however, is portraying the country once more as more West than East. Alasdair Murray asks whether the Asian financial crisis really spells the end of Australia's own economic dream.

Australia appears to be in a state of denial. While the Asian crisis continues to swirl around the region, leaving economic devastation everywhere in its wake, Australia seems intent on continuing blithely as if nothing has happened. The Government talks about the crisis shaving a little off the GDP growth rate but insists that the country will still enjoy a healthy economy. In the sprawling suburbs the talk is less of the threat from Asia than the continuing plunge in unemployment and the fact that falling global oil prices have enabled the car-loving population to enjoy cheap petrol.

Yet, by simple geography alone, it seems obvious that Australia is holding the front-line against the crisis for the Western world. Some 60 per cent of Australian exports go to the Asian region — representing some 10 per cent of the country's total GDP — while there has been massive Asian investment in the country in the past decade. The Australian dollar is feeling the heat, sliding nearly 25 per cent in the past half year towards a 12-year low before stabilising in the past few days at about \$80.61 to the US dollar.

Australia's apparent reluctance to accept that Asia poses a real threat is, in part, born of its recent economic success. The country seemed to be on the cusp of entering a virtuous circle of strong growth coupled with low inflation that has so characterised the prolonged period of expansion in the US. The most recent GDP figures showed the economy still growing at a robust annualised rate of 5.3 per cent in the first quarter. Unemployment, which in common with many other Western countries has proved an intractable problem over the past 20 years, is falling towards 7 per cent. Interest rates are at historic lows yet inflation hovers at about 1.5 per cent.

For Australia, however, the coming problems go beyond simple economics and to the heart of the country's identity. Ever since the UK joined the European Community, making it clear that it no longer viewed the Commonwealth as an economic priority, Australia has desperately sought a new niche

in the world. For the past decade Asia appeared to provide the answer — Paul Keating, the former Prime Minister, famously proclaimed that Australia had become part of Asia and would share in the prosperity of the region. Now that the Asian miracle has proved to be an illusion, the Australian Government is desperate to try to play down its links with the East and reconnect the country with healthier Western economies. John Howard, Prime Minister, insisted only last month that Australia is "geographically in Asia but economically it's a thousand miles away because it is much stronger". More worryingly, the overly racist Pauline Hanson has begun to win sizeable support among struggling farmers by blaming Australia's problems on an Asian "invasion" and offering a seductive platform of protectionist policies as a panacea for the country's problems.

For now, the official Australian response remains that there is no crisis. The ruling Liberal Party Government, which recently unveiled a modest Budget surplus, is predicting that the problems in Asia will knock about a percentage point off GDP growth but still leave it growing at a healthy 3 per cent. Inflation is expected to tick up as currency depreciation kicks in, but only to 2.75 per cent.

The financial markets, however, see things very differently. Analysts believe the GDP figures effectively hide the problems that Australia is only just starting to face. Much of the increase in GDP related to stock-building, a sure sign that companies are struggling to shift goods and an indicator that output is likely to fall sharply in the coming quarters.

There was a lag, too, in the damage showing in the trade figures, but the most recent data makes the problems all too apparent. In the four months to April exports to the Asian region slumped by 25 per cent.

Conversely, Asian money that used to flow into Australia has also dried up. Tourism and education make up a large part of the country's service sector, worth an estimated \$2 billion (£730 million) a year, but both rely heavily on Asian finance. The number of Asian visitors to



Fallout from the Asian crisis combined with El Niño have left many farmers struggling, leaving some of them susceptible to extremists such as Pauline Hanson

Australian resorts has slumped by about 100,000, translating in to lost revenue of almost \$500 million. Asian students, who went home at Christmas, failed to return, putting about 8 per cent of the higher education sector's funding at risk.

Analysts believed the time lag in problems showing up in official data allowed Australia to take an overoptimistic view of the potential risks from Asia. One London-based economist proved reluctant to go on the record with his views about the depth of the problems because the Australian arm of his bank was insisting on taking a far more bullish view of the economy. Graham Richardson, Australian analyst at the Economist Intelligence Unit, said: "It is a head-in-the-sand attitude. There were shrieks of outrage and shock when some economists started downgrading their forecasts." The Australian Government has also not helped relations with the market. Mr Howard has echoed some Asian leaders in suggesting that the Australian dollar's fall was a result of a lack of understanding by Western currency traders

about the economy's true health. It appears, however, that the Government will not be able to ignore the bad news much longer. The country seems particularly vulnerable to a balance of payments crisis. Economists are predicting the current account deficit will balloon to 6.5 per cent in the third quarter, a level last seen after the borrowing boom of the mid-1980s when Mr Keating, then Treasurer, said the country was in danger of becoming a "banana republic".

Fitch IBCA, the credit rating agency, responded to the figures last week by placing Australian long-term foreign currency on a negative ratings watch because of its concern over the impact on Australia's high external debt burden. Tim Harris, economist at the National Australian Bank, said the widening current account deficit would only increase the pressure on Australian financial markets, leaving the dollar a "sitting duck".

The real gloom-mongers go further and say that the Federal Reserve Bank of Australia will

be forced to raise interest rates to try to protect the currency and head off inflation. Rate rises will begin to take effect just as the economy begins to slow under the influence of the Asian crisis, threatening to send Australia into a full-blown recession.

Corporate Australia is also showing the strain. BHP, the mining conglomerate, has announced an A\$3 billion disposal plan. Earlier this week a leaked memo from Fairfax, the media group, revealed it was planning to take A\$40 million out of its cost base in anticipation of an economic downturn. Foreign companies are also shying away. Marks & Spencer announced on Monday that it was postponing an ambitious opening programme because of the currency collapse.

Australia's problems are being compounded by the structure of the economy. Some two thirds of Australian exports are commodities — minerals, food, wool and live animals — which are also suffering because of the global fall in commodity prices. In a gloomy report published yesterday, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Re-

source Economics predicted that the commodity exports would fall by 12 per cent in value this year — the first decline for nearly 20 years — and in contrast to growth of 7.2 per cent last year.

The Government has tried desperately in recent years to extol the virtues of the manufacturing sector. On paper, manufacturing looks to be one of the largest single segments of the economy. In reality, however, it represents just 14 per cent of the economy and a fair proportion of this can be classified as rudimentary commodity production. Despite some high-profile investments in recent years, including the opening of a Microsoft regional office, there is little sign that Australia is on the verge of developing a high-tech sector to help to take some of the economic strain.

There appears little political will to tackle these problems. The Government has promised much-needed tax reforms, including the introduction of a sales tax, but is clearly not inclined to play up the country's problems with an election fast approaching. This has left the

tracts of the coast have been developed by Asian companies, while Brisbane has become a popular location for regional subsidiary firms. Farmers, the traditional backbone of the state, however, feel marginalised, suffering not just from the fall in commodity prices, but the devastating impact of El Niño. When Ms Hanson equates globalisation with an Asian plot to buy Australia on the cheap, she finds a ready audience.

The fear is that as the downturn clicks in, unemployment will again rise, swelling the still substantial numbers of long-term unemployed and lifting support for the One Nation Party. Some analysts believe that Ms Hanson could have almost as devastating an impact on the economy as the Asian crisis. Two big Taiwanese companies have cancelled plans to invest in Queensland, blaming the presence of Ms Hanson.

Perversely, however, the Asian crisis could end up strengthening Australia's links with Asia. Despite the coming problems, Australia still remains a reasonably attractive haven for regional capital. The fall in the Australian dollar only matches that of the yen. Mining companies, in particular, should see an earnings translation benefit because international prices are quoted in US dollars.

A number of Australian companies have also declared their intention of taking advantage of deregulation measures and cheap prices to strengthen their position in Asia. The National Bank of Australia announced this week that it was picking up business throughout the region as the Japanese banks retreat. CSR, the commodities group, has taken the opportunity to buy out its Asian partners on the cheap. For all Ms Hanson's huffing and puffing, Australia's future — for better or worse — will be increasingly bound up with Asia.

Gin, no tonic

NEXT Thursday a party of bigwigs from the Worshipful Company of Distillers will take the train from Fenchurch Street out to Laindon in Essex for a tour of the UDV distillery there. They will do a turn around the Heritage Centre and the distillery itself, with a decent lunch and plenty of stops for refreshments, before crawling back on to the train at 4pm.

One hopes they can resist the temptation to engage in a bit of cheery badinage with the workers at Laindon, and that the tone of the bun-

fight will not be too funeral. The distillery was earmarked for closure by UDV on Friday, at the cost of all 220 jobs there, just ten days after the invitations went out. "Clearly we couldn't alert anyone in advance," says my man at Diageo. "The whole thing was confidential" — everything had to go ahead as normal. Surely it would have been tactful to cancel the jaunt? "The visit is going ahead as usual," says Diageo. The worshipful members were contacted after the news broke. "They said they would still like to come."

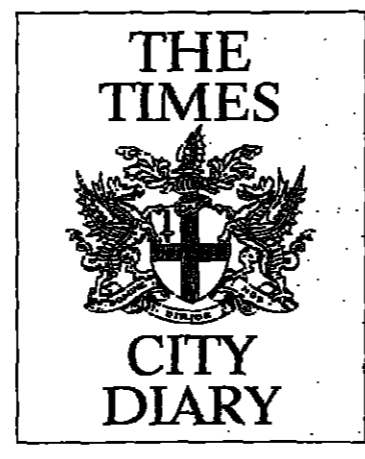


The offers so far have been a bit unrealistic

THE latest economic briefing note from the UK Strategy team at BT Alex Brown, formerly NatWest, certainly lays it on the line. Not for them the usual obfuscations of economists, the "on the one hand", the endless circumlocutions. Instead, they sum up the British economy thus: "It's all going horribly wrong."

Spin Bowler

IHAVE no idea who Mark Bowler is, and the evidence suggests that neither does he. However, his name features in a spectacularly silly marketing stunt by the Royal Mail which is now pestering various financial types. The stunt goes thus. ac-



cording to one irritated victim. Through the post there arrives a heavy book with all of a dozen thick cardboard pages, of the kind you give to infants. It contains a collection of random images, each accompanied by a date.

This is the teaser. Next week you receive a letter that begins "Following our recent telephone conversation" — my merchant banker friend says he has never heard of the writer, let alone spoken to her — and contains an invitation to a half-day seminar next month at the Brewery in Chiswell Street. This is arranged by the Royal Mail. "attended solely by senior financial marketers" and hosted by the aforesaid Bowler. Unfortunately the confirmation you are supposed to send off reads "Mr Mark

Bowler accepts Mark Bowler's personal invitation..."

So there you have it — a financial seminar attended solely by Mark Bowlers. The Royal Mail are baffled by my inquiry, so perhaps the real Mark Bowler could ring to enlighten me. Strangely enough, the seminar is all about avoiding mistaken identity.

NEWS from France of our old friend Bernard Tapie, the former Adidas boss and French MP who is always getting into scrapes, the silly lad. Publication of his forthcoming book, Librement, may have to be held up after a last-minute hitch. In it, Tapie gives a moving account of his time in prison after a previous scrape that went wrong. The brutal regime, the awful food, the sadistic warders, you know the kind of thing. The trouble is that Tapie will learn today from France's highest appeal court whether he is to serve another jail sentence for a fraud involving his yacht, Procacia. If he does go inside again, the prison authorities are not going to look kindly on his literary efforts. So the book, whose title translates as "Freely", will have to hang fire until the result of the appeal is known. A ruling that could provide Tapie with material for at least a couple more chapters...

Net call

AS SHARES in Snake-board were suspended "pending clarification", a

statement that sounded ominously like the usual Stock Exchange last rites, its chairman was giving out his mobile phone as a contact number. Snakeboard makes a sort of skateboard that has failed to take off among the country's youth.

So where was David Lloyd, former tennis professional who is trying to put together a rescue merger with another business? Where else but in SW19, sheltering from the rain. "They have only played for about an hour and a bit — I think they will go back on pretty soon," he said before tipping Barry Cowan, a young British entrant, as the next Tim Henman.



David Lloyd: taking care of business on the Centre Court

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CHANGING TIMES

First Leisure falters as Grade sees demand cool

BY DOMINIC WALSH

SHARES in First Leisure nosedived yesterday after the group revealed an unexpected weakening of consumer demand and failed to announce a sale of its resorts division.

Despite a reasonable set of interim results, the market reacted badly to comments from Michael Grade, the group's chairman, that trading in the second half of the

year had "fallen short of expectations", reflecting "softening of consumer demand across many of the markets in which we compete".

There was also disappointment at the lack of news on its resorts division, including Blackpool Tower, which was put up for sale in April with a £100 million price tag. There have been rumours of a £120 million bid from Trevor Hemmings, the former Pontin's boss, but Mr Grade would only say: "The process of evaluating options continues."

Analysis shaved £2 million from their full-year profit forecasts, to about £45 million, with one saying: "The second-half trading is worrying, but it's still a little difficult to discern a trend when you've got factors such as the weather and the World Cup."

First Leisure's shares, which have risen strongly recently, were marked 48p lower at 367½p in early trading, eventually closing down 36p at 379½p. This had a knock-on effect on Rank Group, which lost 9p to 347p.

Mr Grade said that while the health and fitness division had traded "very well", nightclubs had performed poorly and bars and family entertainment centres (FECs) had been "up and down". He admitted the World Cup was a factor but was at a loss to explain the nightclubs downturn.

In the first half of the year, profits before tax and asset disposals were up 10 per cent to £18.3 million from comparable turnover up 42 per cent to £106.3 million. Earnings per share reached 8.47p (7.24p) and the interim dividend is 2.85p (2.64p).

Profits from nightclubs and bars were up 24 per cent to £14 million, health and fitness rose from £900,000 to £3.6 million and FECs were up 6 per cent to £7.4 million. Both resorts and bingo, sold in February, reported losses.

Tempus, page 28

Sterling hits Halma pre-tax

BY MARTIN BARROW

HALMA, the environmental technology company, lifted underlying pre-tax profits 14 per cent to £42.4 million in the year to March 28, despite the adverse impact of the strength of sterling and weaker Asian markets.

However, at the pre-tax level profits fell to £36.6 million from £37.7 million after a £5.76 million charge against restructuring. During the year the company closed three UK small subsidiaries at a cost of £2.7 million, plus £3 million of goodwill previously written off.

Adjusted earnings rose to 8.26p a share from 7.01p. The total dividend is lifted 21 per cent to 2.772p a share from 2.309p, with a final 1.682p. Halma has increased dividends by at least 20 per cent in each of the past 20 years.

The shares, rose 5p to 128½p yesterday. Turnover rose 7 per cent to £214 million and net cash increased from £9.7 million to £19.9 million. Since the year-end the company has completed two further acquisitions in America.



Hans Snook hopes a raft of new services will help to develop the "wire-free" future making fixed telephones largely redundant

Orange plans mobile video phones

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

ORANGE, the mobile telephone group, yesterday promised to introduce mobile video phones in the UK within the next 18 months.

The company said it would also be introducing mobile banking and shopping by mobile phone next year. Hans

Snook, Orange's chief executive, said the planned new services were part of an attempt to develop the "wire-free" future when, for most people, fixed telephones would largely become redundant. From next year Orange will be introducing full-colour

graphic Internet services on its mobile phones.

The announcements, linked with tariff changes, are part of moves which will make the already competitive UK mobile phone market even more cut-throat over the next 18 months. As part of its fight, Orange

said that from next month its customers will get a one-minute credit every time the network cuts them off, as long as the customer tries again within five minutes. The company also said that Orange will match any "popular competitor digital network tariff".

Forfaithing falls foul of forecast

BY MATTHEW BARBOUR

SHARES of London Forfaithing fell 7½p to 263½p yesterday after the specialist trade finance company gave warning that sales and profits would "substantially" undershoot current City forecasts.

The company blamed volatile trading conditions in Asia. Analysts had expected 1998 pre-tax profits of between £45 million and £49 million, against £38.5 million in 1997.

Earlier this year the company wrote down the value of South Korean, Indonesian and Thai syndicated loans and trade finance instruments by £8 million but insisted it remained positive about the outlook in Asia.

Yesterday Jack Wilson, chairman, said the company plans to set up a Shanghai office and invest £30 million in its Hong Kong operation.

"We don't expect more bad news. The corner has turned," he said.

"London Forfaithing, as forfaithing market leader with a worldwide presence, leaves it very well to achieve this growth."

He added: "The difficulties experienced by certain Asia economies will have a positive impact for the company in increasing in general terms the pricing of new transactions for good-quality emerging market borrowers."

Hogg Robinson plummets 78%

BY MATTHEW BARBOUR

HOGG ROBINSON, the travel and financial services group "named and shamed" last year for its pension mis-selling compensation record, saw year-end pre-tax profits plummet by 78 per cent to £5.44 million (£24.66 million).

Shares in the group reacted by falling 9 per cent, closing down 29½p at 289½p.

David Radcliffe, chief executive, said the disappointing figures were a one-off and added that the necessary costs incurred in restructuring the firm had strengthened its position as market leader in business travel.

"We have been changing focus for some time now, and

to do that a certain degree of short-term sacrifice has to be made. If you look at our profits before exceptional items, you'll see that we were well in line with market expectations," he said.

Coupled with restructuring costs, exceptional items came to £11.7 million to which the company added £13 million of what it termed "non-operating exceptional items".

Turnover edged up to £1.55 billion from £1.54 billion. The underlying earnings per share for the year to April were up 26.5 per cent at 23.99p (18.97p), and the final dividend proposed by the board is up nearly 14 per cent to 6.93p (6.1p).

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Volvo puts Scottish jobs in jeopardy

UP TO 250 jobs are to be shed at a Scottish truck and bus plant through a decision by Volvo to boost bus production in Poland, workers were told yesterday. The Swedish manufacturer said it plans to concentrate parts of its European bus production at its plant in Vienna and at Heilbronn in Germany, along with 250, half the workforce, at its plant in Irvine, Ayrshire. The job losses at Irvine are expected to take effect by the middle of the year 2000.

The Irvine plant employs 500 people, making trucks, buses and coaches assembled from parts shipped from Sweden. The AEEU engineering union said it was "shocked" at the move and would attempt to have it reversed. "When I visited the plant a few months ago I was given the impression that things were going very well," said Danny Carrigan, the regional secretary. "The AEEU will attempt to reverse this decision. I will be pursuing the issue with the Scottish Office." The Polish plant is being expanded to produce 1,100 buses and an additional 1,400 chassis a year, with production beginning next January and reaching full capacity by 2001. Part of Volvo's European bus operations will be concentrated there, and part will be concentrated in Sweden, where it is expected that much of Irvine's work will go.

Tinsley profits up 45%

THE mystery suitor that is courting Tinsley Robor is continuing with talks that could lead to a takeover bid for the company, which supplies packaging for compact discs and video tapes. The stock market currently values Tinsley Robor at about £73 million. Yesterday the company reported a 45 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £6.61 million in the year to March 31. Earnings rose 34 per cent to 11.8p a share. A final dividend of 2.2p lifts the total payout to 3.3p a share, from 2.8p.

Cardiff HQ for Firstplus

FIRSTPLUS, the American financial group, is to set up its European headquarters in Cardiff in a £10 million investment that will ultimately create 500 new jobs. The project will include a 24-hours-a-day call centre to deliver loan services to customers. The company shortlisted Dublin as well as Cardiff before choosing Wales. Both the Welsh Development Agency (WDA) and the Welsh Office are assisting with a grant aid package. Firstplus, based in Dallas, Texas, intends to expand its operations in Europe.

Hewetson looks to buy

HEWETSON, the Hull building materials group, is looking for a £50 million acquisition but may opt instead for a number of smaller "bolt-on" deals. The company raised pre-tax profits from £2.53 million to £5.11 million on sales up 13 per cent to £69.57 million. Earnings rose 90 per cent to 20.22p and the total dividend goes up from 5p to 7.5p after payment of a 5.25p final. John Hewitt, managing director, said the performance reflected "strategic moves made during the last two years". The shares rose 3½p to 170½p.

Gartland net assets lift

GARTLAND WHALLEY AND BARKER, the industrial corporate developer that has backed emerging companies including Cirqual and Independent Parts Group, estimates current net assets to be worth about 110p a share. Interim results show net assets of 88p at April 30, lifted further in the opening weeks of the second half by the performance of GWB investments. Pre-tax profits for the period were £11.9 million, against £15.58 million, with earnings of 9.01p (13p). The interim dividend is lifted 133 per cent to 2.8p a share.

Watson share price slips

SHARES in Watson & Philip, the retailer, fell from 618½p to 576p despite a rise in pre-tax profits from £7.15 million to £7.59 million on sales up from £297 million to £332 million in the 26 weeks to May 3. Earnings rose from 11.3p to 12.7p and the half-year dividend goes up from 5.7p to 6p. The number of Alldays stores increased by 78 to 837. Sales at W & P Foodservice rose 11 per cent to £94 million but operational problems at a depot left operating profits in the division down by £100,000 at £1.2 million.

N Brown shares boosted

SHARES in N Brown, the retail group, rose from 319½p to 331p after the board told shareholders at the annual meeting that sales were up 7 per cent year on year, in the first nine weeks of the current year.

Str David Alliance, chairman, said: "The weather is an important factor for sales of clothing and footwear and the

strongest growth came during May when the weather improved. Gross margin is slightly ahead of last year and, as a result of initiatives taken at the beginning of the year, costs have been more closely aligned to the growth in sales. Stock levels continue to be tightly controlled and are lower than last year."

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Shares rally after shaky start

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table listing alcoholic beverage stocks such as AB InBev, Carlsberg, and Heineken with their respective prices and changes.

BANKS

Table listing bank stocks including HSBC, Citigroup, and Royal Bank of Canada.

BREWERS, PUBS & REST

Table listing brewery, pub, and restaurant stocks like Asahi, Heineken, and Wm. Sherry.

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Table listing diversified industrial companies such as Anglo American and Anglo Coal.

ELECTRICITY

Table listing electricity utility stocks like British Energy and EDF.

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Table listing electronic and electrical equipment stocks such as Agilent and Avaya.

CHEMICALS

Table listing chemical industry stocks including BASF and Dow Chemical.

CONSTRUCTION

Table listing construction and building materials stocks like Bunnings and Hilti.

DISTRIBUTORS

Table listing distributor and retail stocks such as Asda and Sainsbury.

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Table listing engineering and vehicle manufacturing stocks like Ford and Renault.

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Table listing food and beverage manufacturing stocks such as Unilever and Nestle.

HEALTHCARE

Table listing pharmaceutical and healthcare stocks like AstraZeneca and GlaxoSmithKline.

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

Table listing household goods and textile stocks such as Next and Marks & Spencer.

INSURANCE

Table listing insurance company stocks like Aviva and Allianz.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing investment trusts such as Fidelity and Schroders.

MEDIA

Table listing media and entertainment stocks like News Corp and Time Warner.

MINING

Table listing mining and metals stocks such as Anglo American and Rio Tinto.

LEISURE & HOTELS

Table listing leisure and hotel industry stocks like Accor Hotels and British Airways.

OIL & GAS

Table listing oil and gas exploration and production stocks like BP and Shell.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table listing various British investment funds with their performance metrics.

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Table listing short-term fixed interest rate securities.

LONGS (over 15 years)

Table listing long-term fixed interest rate securities.

UNDATED

Table listing undated fixed interest rate securities.

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Table listing medium-term fixed interest rate securities.

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of

Table listing index-linked securities with inflation protection.

OTHER FINANCIAL

Table listing other financial services and investment products.

PHARMACEUTICALS

Table listing pharmaceutical company stocks.

PRINTING & PAPER

Table listing printing and paper industry stocks.

PROPERTY

Table listing real estate and property investment trusts.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Table listing telecommunications company stocks.

TRANSPORT

Table listing transport and logistics industry stocks.

WATER

Table listing water utility and infrastructure stocks.

RETAILERS, FOOD

Table listing retail and food industry stocks.

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Table listing alternative investment market products.

Vertical text on the left margin: 'is Scottish copards', 'profits up 4%', '100 for First', 'can look to', 'and not as', 'are price'.

COMPAG Planet Microsoft advertisement: Selling your products on the Internet yet? Your competitors may be. Includes contact info for the UK's largest independent service provider.

Small vertical text at the bottom right corner.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, with columns for bid, offer, and other financial metrics.

WITHDRAWN advertisement with a large 'X' over the text and contact information for 2 Thornhill Place London WC1E 7HW.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'ADVERTISE CALL' and other contact information.

TO ADVERTISE CALL:
0171 481 1986 (TRADE)
0171 481 4000 (PRIVATE)

PROPERTY

FAX:
0171 782 7828 (TRADE)
0171 782 7799 (PRIVATE)

NORTH OF THE THAMES

BAKER ST Regency Park Road 3 bed room, executive kitchen, wood, etc. 215,000. Tel: 0171 653 1770.
BAKER STREET Georgian Mansions 2 bed, 2 bath, lift, portico. £229,000. Tel: 0171 724 9919.
BARGAIN Representatives and Reduced for quick sale price. Capital Gain - 100%. Tel: 0171 266 0248.
BORGAR PLACE W1. Detached 2 story cottage excellent condition 3 beds, 2 baths, 1100 sq. ft. carpet, etc. £245,000. Drives to City. Tel: 0171 936 6536.
BROOK GRN W14 Bright 3 bed flat newly refitted. Central Zone 5. £115,000. Tel: 0171 271 2943.
BRYANSTON CRT W11 3 bed 2 bath, etc. £200,000. Tel: 0171 936 9919.
COUNTY HALL - CRZ Sales Office - See us today - just east of Chelsea. 0171 653 0436.
LITTLE VESPER Grade 2. The specialist local agents, Victoria & Co. 0171 269 1692.

W14 Large 4 bed house near W12. Newly decorated. £280,000. Tel: 0171 271 2943.
W14 Superb newly refitted 4 bed house. £280,000. Tel: 0171 271 2943.
PUTNEY HEATH SW15 3 bed 2 bath, etc. £180,000. Tel: 0171 271 2943.
REGENCY PK. W11 3 bed 2 bath, etc. £220,000. Tel: 0171 271 2943.
SEYMOUR BRIDGE W11 3 bed house near Putney Heath. £280,000. Tel: 0171 271 2943.
SW11 Superb house near Putney Heath. £280,000. Tel: 0171 271 2943.
W12 Gloucester terrace, an ideal 3 bed house with planning for conversion. £180,000. Tel: 0171 271 2943.
W9 Bright top floor flat. £180,000. Tel: 0171 271 2943.

NEW HOMES

Westbury
 Kennett Grange, within easy commuting of the M4 is a prestigious development of 8 executive homes near Usk, 6 of which have already been sold. So if you're looking for an exclusive home from £130,000 call for our brochure.
 KENNETT GRANGE, TON ROAD, LLANGYBI, SOUTH WALES.
 SALES OFFICE OPEN 7 DAYS 11 AM - 6 PM
 TELEPHONE (01633) 450471 / 450469

Westbury
 In a sought after location in Somerset, on the outskirts of Taunton we have just eight 5 bedroom detached homes left, all with study, 3 bathrooms, utility, dining, entrance hall, double garage & superlative specification. Prices from £215,000. Part exchange available.
 Call Sandy Palfrey on (01278) 653610
 *Available on selected plots subject to status, terms & conditions.
 Artist's impression of a typical Westbury 5 bedroom detached home.

CHELSEA FLAT (Change Road)
 5th floor secure well maintained penthouse flat.
 1 bedroom ensuite bedroom.
 Kitchen, dining room.
 Large living room.
 Queen, master, lady's dress.
 110 sq. ft.
 £175,000.
 Available immediately.
 0171 351 5102 (evenings)
 0171 221 4273 (weekdays)

W14 BROOK GREEN
 End of terrace modern town house.
 Finished 4 bedrooms, 2 reception, 2 bathrooms, 1 shower room, 1 WC, fully fitted kitchen/diner, garage, south facing patio garden. Plenty of storage space. High & dry. Close to tube and Bychia village.
 £250,000 now for cash price sale.
 0171 602 0082

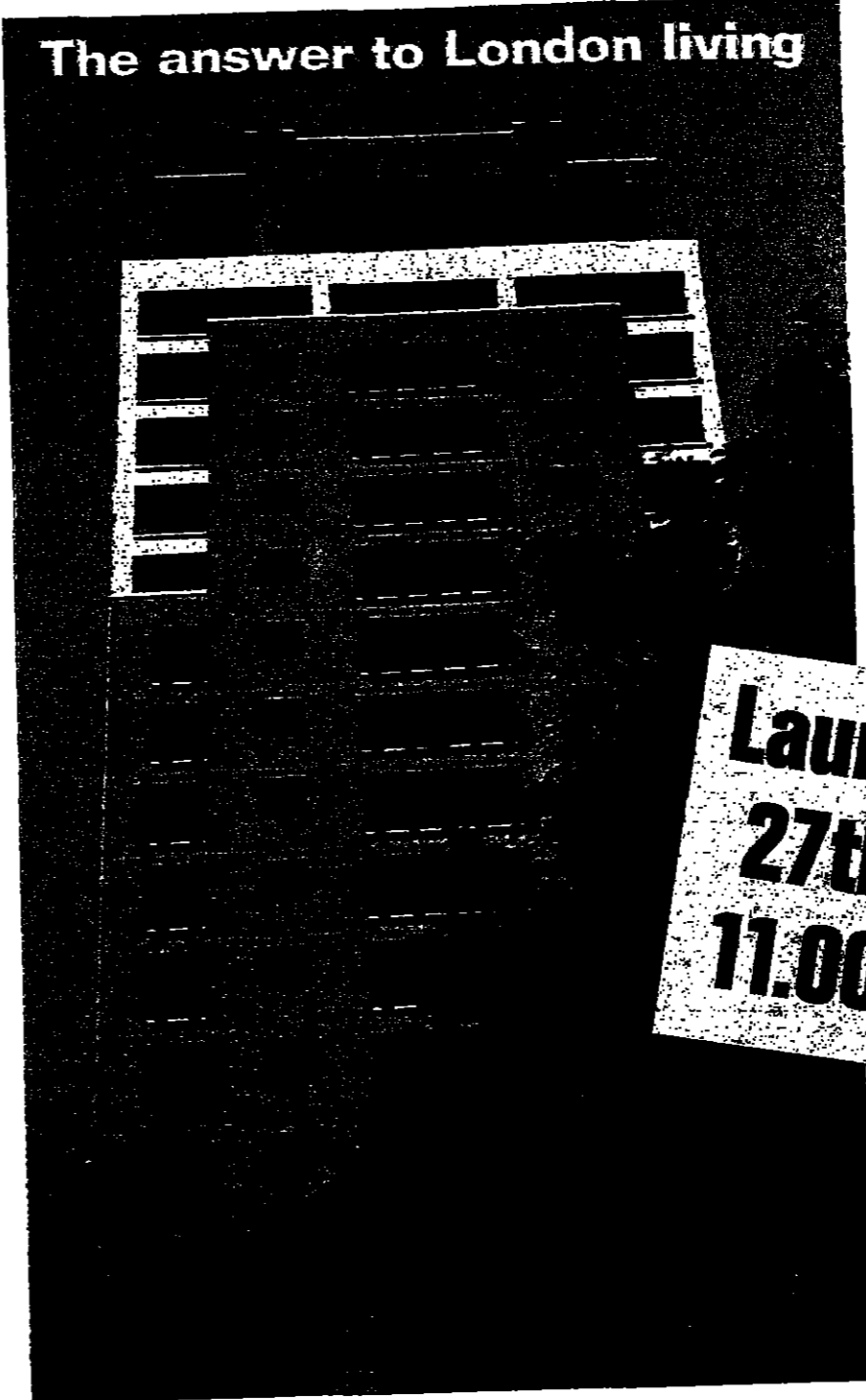
New Developments
 All with hardwood floors, Hi Tech kitchens, low voltage lighting, elegant finishes.
 99 year leases.
 Cromwell Gardens, 2 bed 2 bath 2nd floor, high ceilings. £299,000.
 St James Park, 3 Bed, Bedroom, bathroom, lift. £250,000.
 Cromwell Gardens, 1 bedroom Penthouse with en-suite, terrace, dbl garage, 2 balconies. £330,000.
 Left Key, St James Park, 600sq. ft. high ceilings. £250,000.
 Pall Mall, Adjacent, 1/2/3 bed flats £250,000. Big 4 bed 3 bath penthouse with terrace and terrace. £1,500,000.
 Tel: 0171 730 0900
 0973 452 307
 Open 7 Days A Week

Point West Kensington



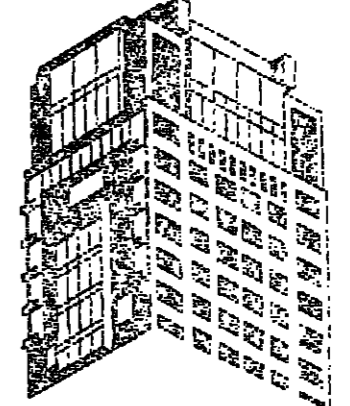
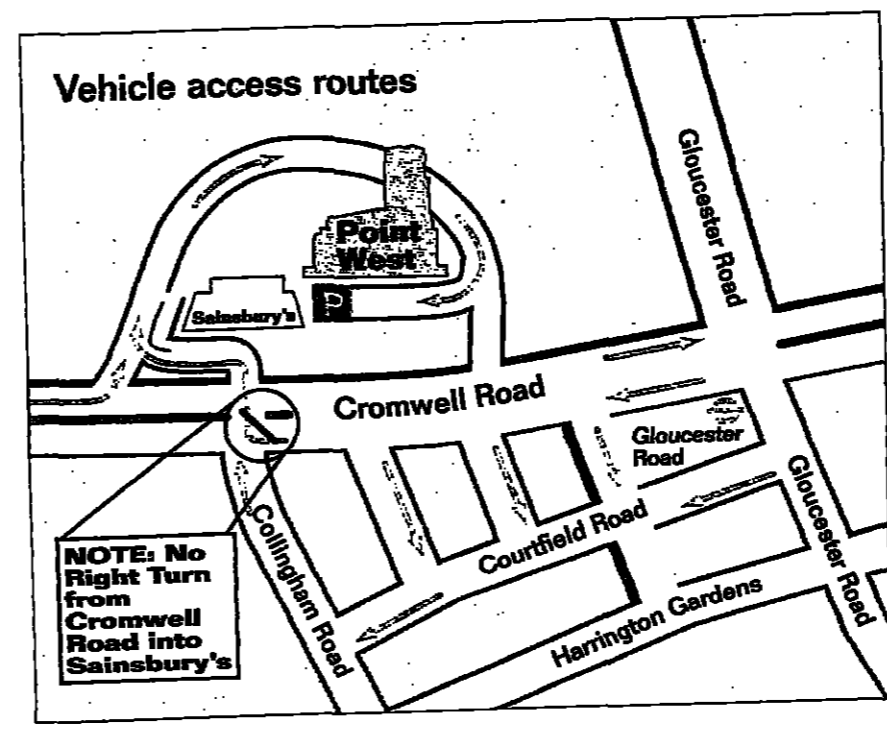
The answer to London living

The finest selection of 2 bedroom apartments in Central London from £299,000



Launch Weekend
27th-28th June
11.00am-6.00pm

Telephone the Point West Marketing Suite on **0171 373 3100**



Point West
 116 Cromwell Road
 London SW7 4XP

BEWLEY HOMES

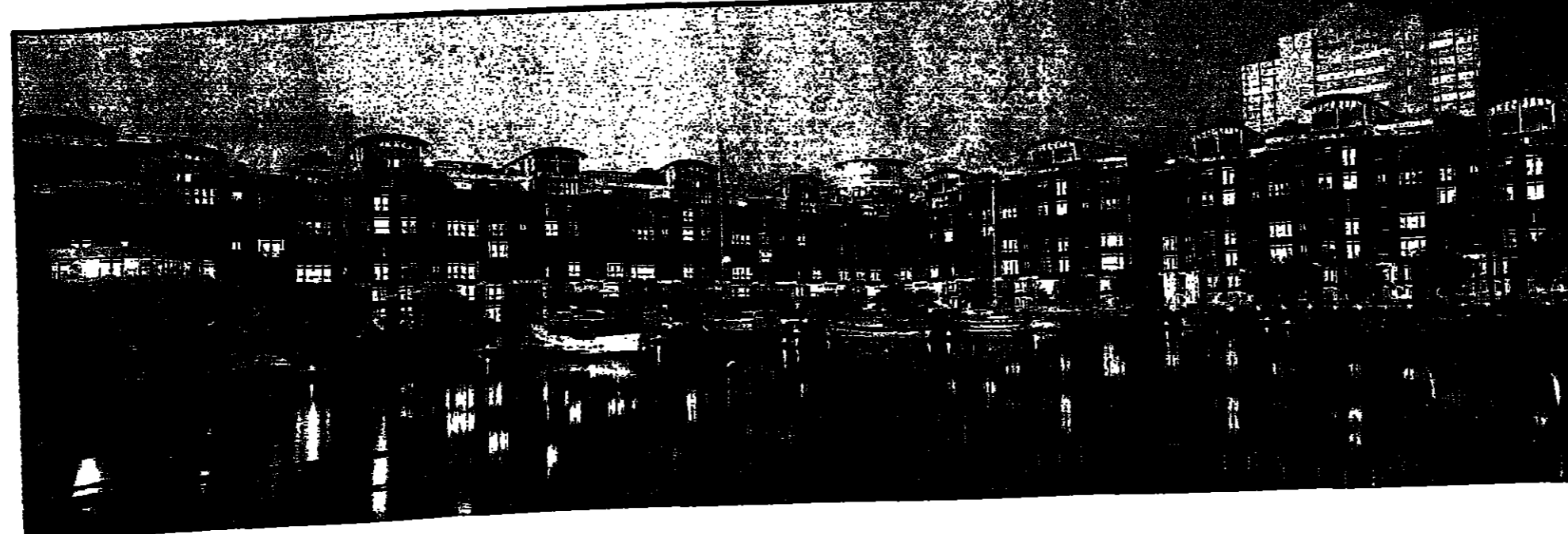
KINGSMERE HOWARDS LANE PUTNEY

An exclusive and imposing property in a prestigious setting.

- ◆ Four Reception Rooms including Library
- ◆ Six bedrooms, five bathrooms
- ◆ Chequered ceramic floor tiling to Hall
- ◆ Mahogany staircase with ornate balustrading
- ◆ Wine cellar
- ◆ TV security camera to front entrance
- ◆ Wrought iron gates with remote controlled video/entry system
- ◆ Price Guide: £1.5m

Please contact
 Knight Frank 0181 946 0026
 0171 730 1672

BEWLEY HOMES
 www.bewley.co.uk



New apartments for sale at St Katharine's Dock

1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments, prices from £250,000.
 For further information please call the on-site sales office on **0171 481 9898** or fax on **0171 481 0364**.
 email: stephen.edwards@taywood.co.uk

FPDSavills
 Sales & Lettings
 0171 456 6800

TAYWOOD
 CAPITAL DEVELOPMENTS

THE CITY QUAY

- Genuinely spacious south and west-facing apartments all with large balconies and marina views.
- Penthouses all include substantial terracing.
- Apartments finished to a high level of specification including Bulthaup Kitchens with AEG appliances, solid timber veneer doors and 8'6" ceiling heights.
- Private landscaped gardens overlooking the marina.
- Secure underground parking.
- 24 hour security and set within a comprehensively managed private estate.
- 999 year leases.
- St Katharine's Dock is an established marina community within walking distance of The City and within easy access of Canary Wharf and City Airport.

Ortega leads the way to £2,000 prize

With two qualifying rounds in the World Cup Fantasy League having passed, the second "phase" prize of £2,000 has gone to south west London more precisely to John Murphy of Kingston-Upon-Thames, whose team Primodonnas-5 scored a whopping 48 points.

His selection had the benefit of consistent scoring from all his chosen players, the most successful being Daniel Ortega of Argentina, who netted ten points, Bixente Lizarazu of France, with eight, and Marc Overmars and Rivaldo each with five. Otherwise all his remaining players - Andoni Zubizarreta, Alessandro Costacurta, Wilmer Cabrera, Dan Petrescu, Oliver Bierhoff and Marcelo Salas - scored three, except Paul Scholes with two. Congratulations to Mr Murphy - but there are three more opportunities to win phase prizes of £2,000. One will be awarded at the end of the final round of group games. The next will come for the period covering the second round and quarter finals. And the final prize goes to the highest points scorer in the semi finals and final.

league, which offers a £25,000 first prize at the end of the tournament, there is a mystery leader on 67 points (see top 50 leaderboard, right) with a team called Vertigo A. How has the leader managed to score so well? His or her current team (after using up all six transfers) is listed below with points scored:

Frode Grodas	.....	-1
Cafu	.....	7
Laurent Blanc	.....	6
Olaf Thon	.....	4
Graeme Le Saux	.....	4
Luis Enrique Martinez	.....	0
Roberto Baggio	.....	7
George Hagi	.....	4
Marc Overmars	.....	5
Gabriel Batistuta	.....	12
Predrag Mijatovic	.....	2

FAXBACK SERVICE

To receive a comprehensive breakdown of your team and their performance, use our unique faxback service. The service will be updated throughout the game. Make sure you have 10-digit PIN to hand when you call. Pick up the handset of your fax machine (if you do not have a handset then press the on-hook or telephone button instead) and dial 0994 111 334. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. This service is only available in the UK. If you have any problems using this service, call the faxback helpline on 0171-412 3795.



Hagi, pictured above (right) against England, is part of Vertigo A, the team that leads the World Cup Fantasy League

The team has also included contributions from Toni Polster, Brian Laudrup, Luis Hernandez, Krasimir Balakov, Zvonimir Boban and Marcelo Salas.

The helpline number for any queries arising from the Times World Cup Fantasy League is 0182 702 720.

The next list of player scores will appear in *The Times* next Monday, June 29 after the final group games.

FRANCE V DENMARK

LIVE COMMENTARY ON TALK RADIO FROM 3pm WITH ALAN PARRY & CLIVE ALLEN

talk radio

Make Talk Radio your official World Cup Station

CHECKLINE

Check the scores and position of your teams in the Fantasy League by calling our checkline below and tapping in your 10-digit PIN. The line currently carries all positions for matches played up to Monday night and will be updated again on Sunday.

Checkline
0839 11 11 91
outside UK
+44 990 200 571

All information provided by Fantasy League Limited © Fantasy League Limited

HOW TO MAKE TRANSFERS

From the start of the tournament until noon on July 3, you are allowed a total of six transfers. After noon on June 30 you will be able to select a maximum of two players from the same national team. Call 0839 11 11 00 (outside UK +44 870 901 4290) with your 10-digit PIN and the three-digit codes from the players you wish to transfer to hand. The transfers must result in a new team with only one player from any national team (except after noon on June 30 as mentioned above) and in a 4-4-2 formation (goalkeeper, four defenders, four midfielders, two strikers). Transfers made before noon will become active on the day they are made. Transfers made after noon will not become active until noon the following day.

Transfer hotline
0839 11 11 00
(outside UK +44 870 901 4290)
0839 calls cost 50p per minute.
+44 870 calls charged at national rate.

TOP 50 IN THE FANTASY LEAGUE

1	Vertigo A	No name	67
2	Held's Hopefuls	Ewan Hardie	64
3	Wood Green M X V	Trevor Curtis	63
4	World Cup Willys	Owen Lowery	63
5	Kitach 22	Tony Kretowicz	62
6	Team B	Mr S Jeffries	62
7	First Round	Mr J Shirass	62
8	Airport Kickers	Bryan Sanchez	62
9	Dream Team AFC	Richard O'Connell	62
10	Woe Gitz 35	James Duddy	61
10	Hollydog A Team	Craig Fletcher	61
10	No name	J McKinney	61
10	Steve's Stars	Steve House	61
10	Drop 'Em	T Woods	61
10	Rapid Decline	Tim Phillips	61
10	Cosmiccharditos	Ian Morris	61
10	Rousandrohr	Sean Rouse	61
10	Primodonnas-5	John Murphy	61
10	Orzaboutthatthen	David Mercer	61
20	The Times Eleven	T Ahmed	60
20	Jimmy Son Give M	Mr D Rutter	60
20	11 Of The Best	Andrew Gascoyne	60
20	The Winners	Mark Nicholson	60
20	No name	No name	60
20	Minor Spices	John Morris	60
20	Abercrombie Pinn	Bernard Darroch	60
20	Belleuve Donkaya	T Smith	60
20	Mark's Rebels	K M Burrow	60
20	Batigola	Ryan West	60
20	Zed Star Cardiff	Jonathan Furness	60
20	Winners	David Hicks	60
20	Ribena	Imran Raza	60
20	Big Cissy's XI	Greig Clark	60
20	Muzza	John Fisher	60
35	Barnard's Bogey XI	Paul Lovett	59
35	Swift Halves	Anthony Walton	59
35	No name	No name	59
35	Wot No Gazza Tch	Tim Warrenner	59
35	Regular Chicks	Mr T Parry	59
35	No name	Andrew Harding	59
35	Plastered In Par	John Staphenson	59
35	Pope John	Ian Flanagan	59
35	Elves Ljone	Justin Kent	59
35	Backer Foomers	Sam Burns	59
35	No name	Jamie Ptarszynski	59
35	Dutwick Ltd	Ian Ainsworth	59
35	Cosmiccharditos	Stephen Chambers	59
35	Red Rose Rovers	Eileen McMillan	59
35	Gloria Hamford		
35	Tanya's Terrors		

UP-TO-DATE PLAYER SCORES WITH LATEST ROUND AND TOTAL

GOALKEEPERS

Player	Country	Rd	Tot
101 Carlos Roa	Argentina	3	6
102 Pablo Cavalero	Argentina	0	0
158 Gorman Adrian Bergosa	Argentina	0	0
103 Michael Kossel	Austria	0	0
104 Franz Witzelart	Belgium	-1	2
105 Filip de Wilde	Belgium	0	0
106 Taffari	Brazil	3	3
107 Carlos Gormazo	Brazil	0	0
108 Boris Mikhalov	Bulgaria	0	0
109 Zdravko Zdravkov	Bulgaria	0	3
110 Jacques Song'o	Cameroon	-2	-2
111 Nelson Tapia	Chile	0	-1
112 Marcelo Ramirez	Chile	0	0
113 Oscar Cordoba	Colombia	0	0
114 Fauri Mondragon	Colombia	3	3
115 Drazen Ladic	Croatia	3	3
116 Marjan Mrazic	Croatia	0	0
117 Peter Schmeichel	Denmark	0	0
118 Magnus Krogh	Denmark	0	0
119 David Seaman	England	-1	2
120 Tim Flowers	England	0	0
121 Nigel Martyn	England	0	0
122 Bernard Lama	France	0	0
123 Fabien Barthez	France	5	8
124 Andreas Kopke	Germany	-1	2
125 Oliver Kahn	Germany	0	0
126 Ed de Goey	Holland	0	0
127 Edwin van der Sar	Holland	3	6
128 Almasraza Abetzedah	Iran	0	0
129 Gianluca Pagliuca	Italy	3	2
156 Gianluigi Buffon	Italy	0	0
131 Warren Barrett	Jamaica	-4	-6
132 Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi	Japan	0	0
133 Jorge Campos	Mexico	-1	-1
134 Abdelkader El Brazi	Morocco	0	0
162 Dries Benzelou	Morocco	-2	-3
135 Willy Okpara	Nigeria	0	0
159 Peter Rufai	Nigeria	3	2
136 Frode Grodas	Norway	0	-1
160 Thomas Myhre	Norway	0	0
138 Jose Luis Chilavert	Paraguay	3	6
139 Nelson Ruiz Diaz	Paraguay	0	0
140 Bogdan Stokic	Romania	0	0
141 Florin Pruncea	Romania	0	0
142 Andre Ayew	South Africa	0	0
143 Brian Bedy	South Africa	0	0
161 Hans Vonk	South Africa	0	-2
144 Mohammed Al-Deayea	Saudi Arabia	-3	-3
145 Jim Leighton	Scotland	0	-1
155 Neil Sullivan	Scotland	0	0
147 Kim Byung-il	South Korea	-4	-6
148 Andoni Zubizarreta	Spain	3	1
149 Santiago Canizares	Spain	0	0
150 Ali Boumijel	Tunisia	0	0
151 Brad Friedel	USA	0	0
152 Casey Keller	USA	-1	-2
154 Ivica Kraljic	Yugoslavia	-1	2
157 Dragovic Lakovic	Yugoslavia	0	0

DEFENDERS

Player	Country	Rd	Tot
201 Nestor Sensi	Argentina	0	1
202 Jose Chamorro	Argentina	3	3
203 Roberto Ayala	Argentina	3	6
204 Javier Zanetti	Argentina	3	6
205 Pablo Paz	Argentina	0	0
206 Anton Pfeiffer	Austria	0	2
207 Peter Schottel	Austria	0	0
208 Wolfgang Feiersinger	Austria	0	0
209 Marita Hidan	Austria	0	0
210 Bertrand Crasson	Belgium	0	0
211 Eric van Meir	Belgium	0	0
323 Vital Borkelmans	Belgium	-1	2
324 Eric Deflandre	Belgium	-1	0
213 Aldair	Brazil	3	3
214 Cafu	Brazil	5	7
215 Roberto Carlos	Brazil	3	3
216 Goncalves	Brazil	0	0
217 Za Roberto	Brazil	0	0
218 Junior Balao	Brazil	0	0
318 Andre Cruz	Brazil	0	0
219 Ze Carlos	Brazil	0	0
319 Tchetos Ivanov	Bulgaria	0	0
220 Rodolfo Klichabov	Bulgaria	0	0
221 Gosteo Slanchev	Bulgaria	0	0
222 Ivailo Petkov	Bulgaria	0	0
224 Rigobert Song	Cameroon	-2	-2
225 Javier Irarrazabal	Chile	0	0
226 Ronald Fuentes	Chile	0	-1
227 Cristian Castaneda	Chile	-1	-1
228 Pedro Reyes	Chile	0	1
229 Wilmer Cabrera	Colombia	3	3
230 Jorge Bernandez	Colombia	3	3
231 Ivan Cordoba	Colombia	0	0
236 Wilson Peraz	Colombia	0	0
232 Robert Jarni	Croatia	3	3
233 Slavko Bilic	Croatia	3	3
234 Igor Stasic	Croatia	1	3
235 Dario Slanic	Croatia	3	3
236 Goran Juric	Croatia	0	0
237 Marc Ripper	Denmark	0	0

238 Jes Hogg	Denmark	0	3
239 Thomas Helveg	Denmark	0	3
240 Jacob Laursen	Denmark	0	0
241 Tony Adams	England	-1	2
242 Gary Neville	England	-1	-1
243 Graeme Le Saux	England	-1	4
244 Gareth Southgate	England	0	3
245 Martin Keown	England	0	0
246 Sol Campbell	England	-1	2
249 Rio Ferdinand	England	0	0
250 Laurent Blanc	France	3	6
251 Marcel Desailly	France	3	6
252 Lilian Thuram	France	5	8
253 Bixente Lizarazu	France	8	11
254 Frank Leboeuf	France	0	0
255 Lothar Matthaus	Germany	0	0
256 Jürgen Kohler	Germany	-1	2
257 Stefan Reuter	Germany	0	1
258 Thomas Helmer	Germany	0	0
259 Olaf Thon	Germany	1	4
260 Markus Babbel	Germany	0	0
322 Christian Worns	Germany	-1	2
261 Frank de Boer	Holland	3	6
262 Arthur Numan	Holland	3	6
263 Michael Reiziger	Holland	0	0
264 Winston Bogarde	Holland	0	0
265 Jans Stam	Holland	3	6
266 Mohammad Khalipour	Iran	0	0
267 Paolo Maldini	Italy	3	2
268 Alessandro Costacurta	Italy	3	2
270 Fabio Cannavaro	Italy	3	2
271 Alessandro Nesta	Italy	0	0
320 Giuseppe Bergomi	Italy	0	0
321 Gianluca Pessotto	Italy	0	0
322 Moreno Torricelli	Italy	0	0
272 Durrant Brown	Jamaica	0	0
273 Frank Stecular	Jamaica	-4	-6
274 Masami Ihara	Japan	0	0
275 Claudio Suarez	Mexico	-1	-1
276 Delfino Davino	Mexico	-1	-1
277 Pavei Pardo	Mexico	0	0
278 Noureddine Naybet	Morocco	-2	-3
279 Uche Okochukwu	Nigeria	3	2
280 Taribo West	Nigeria	3	2
281 Celestine Babayaro	Nigeria	3	2
282 Stig Ingo Bjornoye	Norway	0	1
283 Gunnar Heide	Norway	0	0
284 Henning Berg	Norway	0	1
285 Ronald Johnson	Norway	0	-1
287 Cataldo Rivarola	Paraguay	0	0
288 Carlos Samanra	Paraguay	3	6
289 Francisco Arce	Paraguay	3	3
290 Gheorghe Popescu	Romania	3	3
291 Dan Petrescu	Romania	3	6
292 Tibor Salyems	Romania	0	0
293 Anton Dobos	Romania	0	0
294 Lucas Radebe	South Africa	0	-2
295 Mark Fish	South Africa	0	-2
296 Ahmed Jamil Madani	Saudi Arabia	0	0
298 Tom Boyd	Scotland	0	-1
299 Colin Hendry	Scotland	0	-1
300 Colin Calderwood	Scotland	0	-1
301 Yash McKinlay	Scotland	0	0
302 Christian Dailly	Scotland	0	-1
303 Matt Elliott	Scotland	0	0
304 Jackie McNamara	Scotland	0	0
305 Lee Hwa-sung	South Korea	-4	-6
324 Hong Myung-so	South Korea	3	1
306 Rafael Alkorta	Spain	0	1
307 Manuel Angel Nadal	Spain	1	1
308 Abelardo Fernandez	Spain	0	0
309 Albert Ferrer	Spain	0	0
310 Sergi Reguilan	Spain	3	1
311 Sami Traabeli	Tunisia	0	-1
312 Marcelo Balboa	USA	0	0
313 Alexei Lalae	USA	0	0
313 Stelios Mihaljovic	Yugoslavia	-1	5
314 Zoran Mirkovic	Yugoslavia	0	3
315 Goran Djorovic	Yugoslavia	-1	2
316 Miroslav Djukic	Yugoslavia	0	0

MIDFIELDERS

Player	Country	Rd	Tot
401 Diego Simeone	Argentina	2	2
402 Ariel Ortega	Argentina	10	10
403 Matias Almeyda	Argentina	0	0
404 Juan Sebastian Veron	Argentina	2	2
549 Marcelo Gallardo	Argentina	0	0
405 Andreas Herzog	Austria	0	0
406 Peter Stoger	Austria	0	0
407 Helmut Pfaffenberger	Austria	0	0
408 Ivica Vastic	Austria	3	3
550 Hamid Cermy	Austria	0	0
409 Franky van der Elst	Belgium	0	0
410 Enzo Scifo	Belgium	2	2
411 Lorenzo Staelens	Belgium	0	0
412 Marc Wilmots	Belgium	6	6
413 Nico van Kerckhoven	Belgium	0	0
414 Gert Verheyen	Belgium	0	0
415 Philippe Clement	Belgium	0	0
416 Leonardo	Brazil	0	0
420 Decolson	Brazil	0	0
421 Rivaldo	Brazil	5	5
422 Dunga	Brazil	0	0
423 Dunga	Brazil	0	0
542 Cesar Sampaio	Brazil	0	3
543 Giovanni	Brazil	0	3
423 Zlatko Yanjov	Bulgaria	0	0
424 Krasimir Balakov	Bulgaria	0	0
425 Daniel Borimirov	Bulgaria	0	0
426 Ivailo Yordanov	Bulgaria	0	0
538 Augustina Sino	Cameroon	0	0
539 Salomon Otembe	Cameroon	0	0
Luis Musari	Chile	0	0
433 Marcelo Vega	Chile	0	0
434 Clarence Acuna	Chile	0	2
435 Carlos Valderrama	Colombia	2	2
436 Freddy Rincon	Colombia	0	0
437 Mauricio Sorza	Colombia	0	0
438 Aljosa Asanovic	Croatia	2	2
439 Zvonimir Boban	Croatia	0	0
440 Robert Prosinecki	Croatia	0	3
441 Mario Stamic	Croatia	0	5
442 Krunoslav Juric	Croatia	0	0
443 Silvio Maric	Croatia	0	0
444 Michael Laudrup	Denmark	0	0
445 Michael Schjohjberg	Denmark	0	0
446 Allan Nielsen	Denmark	3	3
447 Per Fruudsen	Denmark	0	0
448 Paul Ince	England	0	2
449 Steve McCluskey	England	0	0
450 Paul Merson	England	0	0
451 Darren Anderton	England	0	0
452 David Beckham	England	0	0
453 Paul Scholes	England	2	5
454 Didier Deschamps	France	0	0



LITERATURE Boys and girls with their nose in a book PAGE 38

THE TIMES ARTS

MUSIC Spitalfields premieres a masterpiece THIS PAGE



Heavy metal still pulling in the brass

Although we keep hearing that the music industry is in terminal crisis, heavy metal remains largely impervious to wavering fashions or press hype. While more conventional festivals are cancelling or struggling to sell tickets, the Ozzfest comfortably lured a capacity crowd of about 50,000 loyal hard-rock fans to the Milton Keynes Bowl on Saturday.

POP Ozzfest 98 Milton Keynes Bowl

down-to-earth manner intact, Osbourne is probably the best-loved hard-rock survivor in the world. Before arriving onstage for a short set with his current backing band, Ozzy's naughty schoolboy face appeared on three giant screens in a witty montage of doctored film clips which allowed him to star in Titanic and sing with the Spice Girls.

Dressed in understated black and largely unaided by stage trickery, this middle-aged foursome proved that rough-hewn battle cries such as War Pigs and Snowblind have lost little of their blunt, bludgeoning power over the years. It is a stinging indictment of the current state of heavy metal that these 50-year-old veterans sounded more raw and vital than anything else on show at Ozzfest.

STEPHEN DALTON



Watch the birdie: Ozzy Osbourne, once notorious for biting the heads off bats, demonstrates his affection for a feathered friend

Master of the voices

If there were any doubt that Giles Swayne is the most accomplished choral composer in Britain — and in enlightened circles there isn't — the premiere of his powerful new requiem, The Silent Land, would have swept it aside. The work starts with Dylan Thomas's famous injunction to "rejoice against the dying of the light", and in half an hour of highly charged choral music it does just that.

NEW MUSIC The Silent Land Spitalfields

lament for so long without diminishing the intensity, nor about the deftness with which he mingles dense clusters with simple ecclesiastical harmonies. The Silent Land is a worthy companion for the heaven-storming Tudor motet that followed it here: Tallis's 40-part masterpiece, Spem in alium. Prate indeed.

Unfortunately, few choirs that tackle the Tallis epic will possess the technique or nerve to try Swayne as well. This performance, lucidly directed by Timothy Brown, was a combined effort by two fine ensembles: the choir of Clare College, Cambridge, which gave earlier vibrant accounts of three smaller Tallis motets; and English Voices, who pre-acted the new Swayne with a terrific performance of his 1985 Missa Tiburtina.

That, too, is a dazzling demonstration of choral possibility. The composer's sombre programme-note — pointing out that during the 20-minute course of the work "600 children will die of starvation" — prepares the listener for the music's emotional force, but not for its brilliantly deployed drama. Wild African rhythms dissolve into luminous harmonies: movements are shaped towards majestic climaxes. Swayne has never courted success. Moving to Ghana, for instance, is not generally considered to be a good career move in the music biz. But at 52, and with a Hamlet opera in the pipeline, this singular genius may find that he cannot avoid fame for much longer.

RICHARD MORRISON

When Pat Metheny described Karrin Allyson as the best new singer he had heard in a decade and a half, some might have wondered whether a little regional bias was involved.

After all, Allyson plies her trade as a singer-pianist in Kansas City, the very same place where Metheny learnt his craft. She has released a couple of polished albums on the Concord label, but her records, like those of her stablemate Susannah McCorkle, clearly tell only half the story.

The football presumably drew the crowds on a quiet Monday. But by the time Allyson has finished her residency, many people are going to be drawing flattering comparisons with the new jazz star Diana Krall, who had the "house full" signs out in force at Ronnie Scott's not very long ago.

Allyson possesses a slightly

Smooth operator

JAZZ Karrin Allyson Pizza on the Park

lighter voice, but her sly phrasing across the beat is just as persuasive. On this occasion she was working with a similar format too, partnered by the bassist Alec Dankwortz and her regular guitarist Rod Fleaman, an exceptionally incisive soloist whose playing is imbued with a subtle blues flavour.

More of an extrovert than Krall, Allyson spent most of the first set away from the piano, opening up with a slinky rendition of Let's Fall In Love. Her set covered an impres-

sive amount of ground with the minimum of effort.

While some singers work hard to appear eclectic, serving up the bossa nova and samba, for instance, as if by rote, Allyson gets under the skin of each number. No mere songbird — she constantly whispered cues to her partners — she shows a true musician's instincts.

Blame It On My Youth, delivered with spartan embellishment, evoked shades of the Nat King Cole Trio. Gee, Baby, Ain't I Good To You — another tune covered by Cole — swung generously with the help of another of Fleaman's thoughtfully tailored solos.

The plean to Sunday in New York has cute lyrics which would do justice to the soundtrack of Friends. In Allyson's hands it worked, though I still preferred the funkier sentiments of her own Sweet Home-Cookin' Man. An elegant, finger-snapping programme concluded in bop vein with a perfectly executed "vocalese" tribute to Monk on the theme of Straight No Chaser.

CLIVE DAVIS

Even in the current jazz climate, where opened-ears eclecticism sometimes seems downright compulsory, the quintet headed by saxophonist Ingrid Laubrock is unusually polyglot. She herself hails from Stadlohn, a small town in Germany, and guitarist Iê Tolentino from São Paulo, Brazil. Bassist Davide Mantovani is Italian, keyboard player/accordionist Kim Burton Cornish, and drummer Helder Pack is from Mozambique. Their common artistic interest, however, is in the music that Laubrock herself credits with sparking her enthusiasm for performing the sambas and chorinhos of Brazil, infused with the improvisatory spirit of jazz.

Laubrock, Tolentino and Mantovani are all regulars in another London-based unit specialising in Brazilian music, Monica Vasconcelos's Nois, and the opening selection at this gig, I and I, a samba featuring co-composer Laubrock on the band, agile soprano gliding over the bossa's softly lilting bustle, could have fitted neatly into either band's repertoire. The quintet's subsequent

Rhythm method

Ingrid Laubrock Vortex Jazz Bar, N16

selection, though, a tune inspired by Irish traditional uilleann pipe music, was distinctively Laubrock: Pack rapped out a snare tattoo, the leader added her plangent soprano flutist, then Tolentino hinted at flamenco influences with his acoustic guitar contribution before Burton (on accordion) and Laubrock upped the tempo to conclude in a joyous, no-holds-barred jig.

With subsequent pieces featuring Tolentino moving easily between electric guitar and the acoustic instrument, and with Mantovani alternating between the ringing sound of the fretless bass and the more percussive electric five-string,

the band slowly revealed itself as wonderfully versatile.

Straightforwardly funky, bluesy numbers, such as the tenor-led tiddler of Laubrock's debut album, Who Is It?, were tellingly interspersed with feather-light sambas such as Chico Buarque's Com Acucar. Com Afeto complete with downtrodden-guitar lyrics that might have been Tammy Wynette showcasing either Burton's grandiloquent piano or Tolentino's delicate guitar. Soft wafts through Jobim songs and swift but rewarding visits to the likes of Thai flute music were succeeded by peppy originals from Pack and Mantovani, all graced by the poised, elegantly vigorous saxophone playing of Laubrock herself.

"Rhythmic, happy, melancholic, sweet and full of energy" is how Laubrock characterises Brazilian music; it could serve equally well as a description of the music produced by her quintet at this thoroughly enjoyable gig.

CHRIS PARKER

THEATRES section listing various plays and performances across different venues like Apollo Victoria, Royal Albert Hall, and others.

CLOSER advertisement for a play, featuring a photo of a man and text about the production and ticket information.

OPINION

Do or die for the ROH

ARTS

TOMORROW
New movies reviewed.

Once again the Royal Opera House is demanding money with menaces. The threat to close if more funds are not forthcoming is as much part of the ROH tradition as the presentation of grand opera. But threats have not worked before, and it is hard to imagine that they will work now.

There is no doubt about the figures. For the past nine months the ROH has been drawing up its plans for the new theatre, to see how much it would cost to give everyone what they wanted: low ticket prices, high production values, more performances and equal access for ballet to the stage. All pricey stuff. And although the stage machinery reduces technical costs, the new building is bigger and will be more expensive to run. It is not surprising that the first cut of the budgets left a gap of many millions.

The likelihood of Gordon Brown allowing Chris Smith to double the ROH's grant is remote. This

How to make the opera sing for its supper

Mary Allen argues that confrontation and threats are not going to solve the funding crisis at the Royal Opera House

Government has not shown itself to be comfortable with controversy, and there could be few things more controversial than that. Which is why it is hard to understand why Sir Colin Southgate has chosen this approach. The first step in a bidding war? It's unlikely to be successful. Far better would be some serious discussions about what can and cannot be achieved with the funds available.

On the expenditure side there are decisions to be taken about production costs, running in stagione rather than rep, and the number of staff required to operate the new building. There is room for flexibility in all these areas. On the income side there is less room for manoeuvre. The ROH already raises more money from sponsorship than any other arts organisation in this country, and

increasing ancillary sales will be difficult, given that most of the shop and restaurant space has been deleted from the building plans. This means that all the pressure is on ticket prices, and the Government has made it clear that they must come down.

It is now essential that every aspect of running the new building is discussed, realistically and in detail, by the ROH board in conjunction with the Arts Council and the Government. It is not as though the new ROH is something of Sir Colin Southgate's invention: it has been more than 20 years in the making, was created from assets given by the Government,

and is costing nearly £200 million raised from the National Lottery, private donors and the sale of property. The ROH and the authorities have been lobbying threats at each other for decades. It is time to recognise that the ROH already is the people's opera, in the proper sense of that phrase, and the people's representatives need to start taking seriously the fact that it cannot function properly on such low income levels. Everybody has a stake in making it work.

Another voice that can usually be heard when the subject of the ROH crops up is that of Gerald Kaufman. In his report before Christmas, he recommended that

the management of the ROH should change, and that privatisation should only be regarded as a second-best alternative. To judge by reports last weekend, he is not prepared to give the new management much of a chance. He is now saying roundly that the ROH ought to be privatised, although he has not made it clear what he means by this.

It is he talking about the model offered by the railway industry, whereby subsidy is continued and the operators have to meet performance targets? Presumably not, since this is roughly what happens already. But any other

privatisation model would mean no subsidy, which for anything remotely resembling the present ROH is out of the question. The Met, in New York, survives through a mixture of twice as many seats as Covent Garden and a massive private sector endowment. The ROH cannot, now, increase the number of seats in its auditorium: its ticket prices have almost certainly reached the ceiling of what the market will bear, and it already raises around £5 million a year from the private sector. The idea that this could be quadrupled is a fantasy.

Speculation about the contents of Sir Richard Eyre's report has less than a week to run if, as we are now told, it is going to be published next Tuesday. Most commentators seem to think that Eyre will be recommending an

increase in the ROH's grant. Good, so long as the Government does not immediately pass the buck to the Arts Council by telling it to find the money from other arts organisations. But whatever Eyre says, it will be important that his report is seen as a beginning and not an end.

First, the Government, having commissioned it, must take it seriously. By all accounts the main reason why the report is late is because Eyre has taken his task very seriously indeed, and the Government must not put the report on a shelf if it does not like its contents. Secondly, it must sit down with both the ROH and the Arts Council to sort out what happens next. Even if the ROH is not prepared to come out of its bunker the Government must do so, if there is going to be a sensible solution to the ROH's difficulties. In opera and ballet, as in life, jaw jaw has to be better than war war.

Mary Allen is the former chief executive of the Royal Opera House

Lit fit for the unlikely lads

LITERATURE: Nicolette Jones on a scheme to convince adolescent boys that reading books is cool

How do you make reading cool? A National Year of Reading is to be launched this autumn, and parents, teachers, librarians, publishers and booksellers, not to mention politicians, are already exercised by the issue of how to encourage children to read. They are particularly concerned about those who do not have books at home — and secondary school boys.

An initiative launched a few years ago by the organisers of the Carnegie Medal, the nation's most famous children's book prize, chosen annually by librarians, and sponsored this year by Royal Mail, shows what can be done. The Carnegie invites schools and libraries to "shadow" the judging of its shortlist. Children read the half dozen books selected and vote for their own winner. There have been amazing results, and the Arts Council has just granted £6,700 to develop the scheme.

Participants, mostly state schools, have taken the brief to its limits in ventures that have crossed disciplines, changed lives and made headlines. Carnegie shadowers have performed dramatised scenes, reviewed the books on their own websites and in school newsletters, orchestrated publicity, illustrated books and redesigned jackets, participated in debates, lectured to parents, read to younger siblings in "buddy" schemes, and been interviewed on radio and TV.

In all these developments, however, girls have been more actively involved than boys. When it comes to reading, boys have an extra hurdle to leap: the scorn of their peers.

At Leeds Grammar School, reading is given a chance. The school has a magnificent library with a generous budget and a librarian of rare expertise. There are

private reading times built into the day, and pupils are urged to tackle at least a book a month.

When the librarian, Stephanie Roberts, led the school into the Carnegie shadowing this year, she had no shortage of volunteers. The boys, who are still in the thick of reading the shortlist, read anyway: they express enthusiasm for Terry Pratchett, Tolkien, Michael Crichton, and even Douglas Coupland (*Generation X*) and Toby Litt (*Adventures in Capitalism*). Generally, the boys go for fantasy, action and humour.

6 Boys will not read any book with a girl on the cover

They talk in detail about the merits of the shortlist. They respond with critical sophistication to the books that are aimed at readers younger than themselves. They recognise the importance of judging a book by how it achieves what it sets out to do. And when they do not like a book, they can say why not. Take Philip Ridley's *Scribbleboy* (about a young graffiti artist who brings colour to a bleak urban landscape), which they attack not because its deprived protagonists are alien to their own experience, but because they think it is repetitive and limited in its characterisation. And they think Ridley's language is about as hip as William Hague in a baseball cap.

"Unwhizzerooney"?

quotes 14-year-old Mark Hawkinson, shaking his head with disdain. These readers are good judges of what is cool, but they have all had to take stick about shadowing the Carnegie.

Jeffrey James, 12, says he is teased for working behind the counter of the school library at lunchtime. James Kaye, 13, admits that he reads mostly in bed and on holiday (presumably where the others cannot see him). David Bodanski, who at 12 reads so much that he collects books like other people collect stamps, also has to take some flak. Reading is "regarded as antisocial". The head of English, Steve Alderson, says the reading logs showed that some boys were consuming 40 extra-curricular books a year, although a few were "works of fiction in themselves".

Roberts notes that the boys will not read any book with a girl on the cover. One of the most popular books on the shortlist has a girl as the protagonist, but a boy in the title (Tim Bowler's chronicle of a bereavement, *River Boy*). Another, Geraldine McCaughrean's *Forever X* (about a hotel that stages Christmas all year round), also stars a girl, and Henrietta Branford's historical novel of the Peasants' Revolt, *Fire, Bed and Bone*, is narrated by a dog. But overall this year's shortlist has a boyish feel (although the selectors are almost all women). Three have "boy" in the title: *Scribbleboy*, *River Boy* and Malorie Blackman's *Pig-Heart Boy* — about a controversial transplant. And one includes a boy's name: J.K. Rowling's magical comedy set in a school of wizardry, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. The Leeds shadowers had no problem with the content, although fiction is said to speak more to girls.



Comparing notes: pupils at Leeds Grammar School are keen shadowers of the Carnegie Prize shortlist despite having to take flak from their peers

National trends were reflected at Leeds in another way. There were more 11 and 12-year-old volunteers than 13 and 14-year-olds. This is partly because of other demands on the time of the older ones: not least exams. Roberts believes that a falling off of reading among boys between 13 and 15 (the years causing most anxiety) need not be a reason to despair. "Boys who have enjoyed reading at 11 and 12 come back to it in the sixth form."

The shadowing has already raised the profile of the library. One boy who enthused about Philip Pullman's *Northern Lights* (a previous Carnegie winner) mentioned that he could not find a copy of its

sequel, *The Subtle Knife*. It had not occurred to him to look in his own school library. Now he knows it is there. Rakesh Patel, 13, has set up a Carnegie site on the school's intranet and is inviting friends to submit reviews of the shortlist. Tomorrow the boys vote for their winner. (The official judges will announce their choice on July 12.)

The Leeds boys are lucky, it seems, to be at a single-sex school. Research shows that in mixed schools the superior reading skills of girls deter boys. It is a sad truth that boys still need more self-confidence than girls to become readers. Leeds Grammar School is fortunate that so many of its pupils have so much.

A mad reign in Spain

THEATRE

The Bone Room
Young Vic Studio

The walls are inscribed with Leonardo's backwards handwriting; here is a wooden coffin, there a patch of earth, and above us — because this is a promenade production — hang white silken sheets that will flutter down to become the walls of the tower at Tordesillas. In this place mad Queen Juana will pass the last 46 years of her life, for we are in newly united Spain just as the 15th century goes lolling into the 16th, and everyone's brains are about to fry in the frenzies of Catholicism and greed.

Our brains won't be frying but they will surely be feeling taxed in the latter parts of this visually astonishing show. Theatre Alba (sponsored by DTC), has formed itself in order to bring together six actors and a production team for this particular piece. Judith Adams's text whirrs us through arenas of obsession, where wily King

Fernando plots dynastic unions, infantas become defunct at inconvenient moments, and princes speculate upon the nature of the soul. We too are — if not whirled — courteously encouraged to move this way and that as Janet Gordon's meticulously directed cast cascade us from the Royal Chapel at Granada by way of Columbus at sea, Emperor Charles V rehearsing his death (wiping spectacles on his shroud) and poor Juana playing with her dead beloved's bones.

And much else besides. Finally too much else, or too esoterically concerned with nuances of illusion for us to twig what we are invited to discern. But in the first half, where the language con-

tains, to put it bluntly, more jokes. Gordon's swift cuts between scenes are consistently thrilling, and her actors, playing everything from popes to gravediggers, give hectic life to a stream of characters.

They give reality to individuals with a crooked smile (Ben Jones as the wily Fernando) or an enthusiast's glare (Alex Elliott's Leonardo and his Luther); they neatly point up the absurdities of characters (Carol Bush's dumpy Queen Isabel) or the panic of desire (Raquel Cassidy's Juana). They also play a range of inanimate objects, including a cluster of grumpy cathedral gargoyles. The play lost me when it stayed too long inside deranged minds, but whenever it animated physical phenomena or bounced through history, I stayed enthralled.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Buffer to the blind man

Oedipus Tyrannos
BAC, SW11

Peter Oswald's modern verse translation of Sophocles's classic is one of the strangest and most powerful sensory experiences I have ever had in a theatre. Performed completely in the dark, with the audience seated in broken circles, Tom Morris's production gives you only what is said, how it is said, and a chorus of eerie sounds that creep up behind you.

In the first few minutes of total darkness, with the voice of Tam Dean Burn's Oedipus flapping over the audience with oily fear, all I could think was, did my breath smell? Would the coffin dark make me hyper-ventilate? And how the hell did the actors feel their way to the centre of this claustrophobic stage? Aware that every creak, footfall and sound has a nuance far more fragile than anything that could be supplied by a soundtrack, the audience shrivels into utter silence.

Sitting on an aisle seat, I felt the actors grapple past

of Oswald's verse, beautifully spoken by the cast, toy with the senses far more subtly.

Yes, this could easily be a radio play that invites you to imagine what you cannot see, but the difference is that you are not just listening to a thriller where the hero grills lugubrious shepherds to divine his fate, but that you are in the middle of action that ripples around your seat. Like the horrified Chorus, we are helpless participants in this black mystery.

My only point of contention is that when Oedipus gets closer to the truth, the action becomes more central and radiophonic. It might be more interesting if the truth, like the darkness, were to disorientate us as much as it does Oedipus. That said, there is more to this fascinating *Playing in the Dark* season than meets the ear. I shall be back for more.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

LUKE CAULFIELD

Age: 29.
Profession: Artist.

In demand: Though he won the William Coldstream Painting Prize at the Slade in 1996, this seems to be the year that he really breaks into the public consciousness. He has just had his first solo exhibition, at the Place in London, and was shortlisted for the NatWest Art Prize (show currently at the Lothbury Gallery).

Was he always into art? "I was offered places at art school and drama school when I was 18. Since virtually all my family on both sides were artists, I went to the Central School, mad keen to become a theatre director."

So why didn't he? "I got taken on by the National Theatre studio as assistant to the director, and they wanted me to direct my second production myself. So there I was, just where I'd always dreamt of being, and I realised that I really wanted to be a painter."

Off to art school, then? "No, I holed up all by myself in a cupboard-sized room in a squat and just painted there for four years, without showing my work to anybody. But finally I went to the Slade."

Odd combination, theatre direction and painting: "I think



the same things interest me in both. In the theatre I admire Beckett but am more temperamentally inclined to Brecht. I like paintings to establish a critical distance, rather than turing you into an illusion."

Has being Patrick Caulfield's son been an advantage? "When I was a teenager I wanted to be a soldier. He wanted me to be a soldier. He still does. I think a lot of what I've done has been in reaction. I love Patrick's work, but I don't see any connection between his and mine."

Future plans? "To paint bigger again. Now I'm not squatting in a cupboard, I can."

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

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WORLD CUP 98

Owen seizes centre stage in Hoddle's plans for Colombia

FROM OLIVER HOIT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT IN LA BAULE

IN THE wake of the sobering disappointment of Monday night's defeat by Romania, Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, appeared to hint yesterday that he would play Michael Owen, the prolific young Liverpool forward, from the start in Friday's match against Colombia that will decide whether England qualify for the second round of the World Cup.

As Hoddle tried to remain bullishly confident about England's tournament prospects, he also hit back at earlier criticisms of him made by the Manchester United manager, Alex Ferguson. He said Ferguson's comments about the non-selection of David Beckham had been "unhelpful and unprofessional". Moreover, Hoddle said Beckham had joined the squad unfocused on his football. "Maybe his club needs to look at that."

Despite that, though, and the fact that Paul Ince, recovering from strained ankle ligaments, is said to be only 50-50 for the match against Colombia in Lens, the prospects of Owen dominated discussions here at a subdued England camp.

Owen, whom many believe should have displaced Teddy Sheringham as Alan Shearer's strike partner some time ago, was introduced as a late substitute against Romania and nearly rescued England with a predatory goal seven minutes from the end

that levelled the scores at 1-1. An injury-time winner from Dan Petrescu ruined the fairy story.

But Owen's invigorating cameo, Sheringham's own lacklustre performance, and the overpowering necessity of not losing to Colombia have increased the calls for the young forward to be given his opportunity before it is too late. The stage has been reached, even for those of us who admire Sheringham, to admit that Owen's claims have become irresistible.

Now that England have stumbled, now that the calm equilibrium the partnership of Sheringham and Shearer represented has been upset and their pairing questioned, this is surely the time for Hoddle to abandon the otherwise commendable caution he has shown in bleeding Owen and allow him to run at the Colombians' flat back four from the whistle.

The pride of the England coach is the final stumbling block to that outcome because he has insisted all along that Shearer and Sheringham were his first-choice strikers. Pragmatism may be about to make a belated entrance in Lens.

"I have always had a situation where the first two games were going to be the toughest for me," Hoddle said yesterday. "The third game, you always plan off the back of what has happened, results-wise, with the injury situation, performance-wise. You cannot



Owen training with the England squad players yesterday while the men who played the whole match against Romania had the day off. Photograph: Marc Aspland

plan the third game. Michael has done very well when he has come on and it has always been in my mind to nurse him into this World Cup and I think it has been the correct thing.

"It is an option that I can have to play him from the start and I have always felt that. If it was going to be an option, it would come in for the third game. Their shape is a bit different from the other two sides. These are always things a coach is looking at.

"So you guys and the people at

home can think what you want but it has always been earmarked that Michael will be nursed into this World Cup. If he starts, then the pressure is on him. But now, if we start him, his confidence is going to be sky high. There is a little hint in there of what has been going on in my mind."

For some, the fact that Hoddle had even suggested Owen might start the match was enough to convince them that the England coach would definitely stick with Sheringham. This, after all, is the

man who is starting to become predictable in his dissembling.

Only a healthy dose of cynicism prevented most reporters from accepting that Gareth Southgate would start against Romania after Hoddle had said he had recovered from an ankle injury. Working on the law of opposites, the majority went for Gary Neville and were proved right.

This time, though, the choice between Owen and Sheringham is critical, more than some silly game for Hoddle to play with the media.

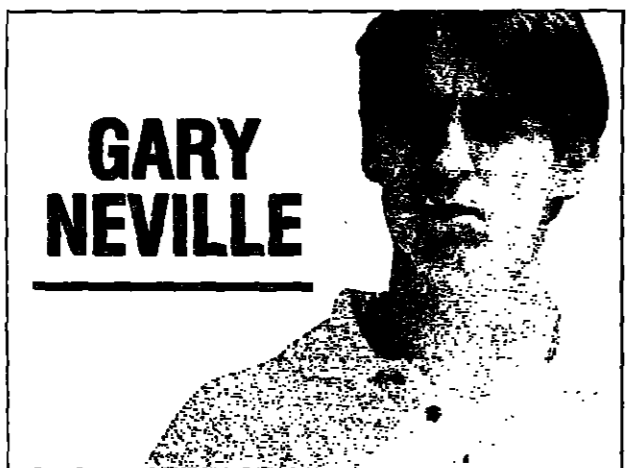
The England coach understandably bridled at a suggestion yesterday that the time for nursing Owen into the World Cup was over because England might be on their way home on Saturday morning — but it was an appetitive point.

Even Shearer, usually so reserved, so careful not to give away any of his preferences or to say anything that casts any doubt on the inclusion of Sheringham, long held to be his preferred striking partner, appeared to be resigned to Owen starting alongside him. "I

have always said that Michael Owen will play a part in this World Cup," Shearer said. "He got us back into the game last night and the rest is up to the manager. That is what he is paid for, to make decisions like the one he will have to make for Friday."

"Michael is still relatively young but that does not matter. When Teddy and I are up front we have not got the pace that Michael has got and, if he was selected, he would cause the Colombian defence problems."

Scent of victory not enough to stop the sucker punch



GARY NEVILLE

Sometimes in a game of football you can smell blood — and I scented it against Romania on Monday night. I thought our performance in the second-half was excellent and I could see fear in their faces as we started to run through and past them. Their midfield players were starting to tell their forwards "come back in here" and the momentum was with us.

That feeling lasted for about 25 minutes. If we had played with that urgency and at that tempo earlier in the game, the sort of thing the boss is always urging us to do, then we probably would not have been

in a position where they could kill us off with that sucker punch from Petrescu right at the end.

Sometimes, the tempo of a game is set in the first 15 or 20 minutes and for one reason or another we let them dictate a slower tempo to us than we should have been playing at. The boss is always telling us to press the ball higher up the field and force them back into defence. That is the England way, but we did not do it until we had gone a goal behind.

We cannot play at the tempo of a Brazilian or a Romanian team because that is not playing to our strengths. We need to be more urgent and control the pace of the game ourselves. It is not difficult to assert your tempo on another team, it is just difficult to do it for 90 minutes, but we should have done it earlier and established control. It will be better against Colombia on Friday.

A lot was made of the fact that they had some older

players in their team and towards the end I thought some of their legs were going. Hagi was starting to struggle but because the pace had not been too quick too early he had managed to last for more than 70 minutes.

Because we played so well in the second half, my initial reaction when we lost was that we had been robbed. It wasn't until we got back to the hotel in La Baule at 3am, after the flight back from Toulouse, and I watched the highlights in my room that I realised how much possession they had had in the first half and that a draw would probably have been a fair result.

They really only had two chances and they scored from them both. He hit the bar but I'm not convinced that he meant that as a chip. I think it was a cross. But that kind of conversion rate with chances is something that European teams excel at and they took those opportunities very well.

After we had equalised, though, we were thinking "shall we go for that winner or should we be happy with a point." I think it is the English mentality to go for it.

The mood on the plane back was pretty subdued. There was an obvious disappointment because we had worked so hard to get back into the game only to have it ripped away from us right at the end. To not even get a draw knocks the stuffing out of you. It was a harsh way to lose.

But the mood was very much that we have still got a chance to put it all right

against Colombia in Lens. That is all that is on our minds now, although there has been talk about the fact that we are likely to play Argentina rather than Croatia now if we get through to the second round.

I have said before that you can make it easier for yourself if you play the less experienced teams, earlier in the competition and save the better teams until later. But there is also something in me that says "you are going to have to beat the best to get where you want to go anyway."

We can't just write off the defeat in Toulouse but it won't affect our self-belief for the

game against Colombia. Results, ultimately, are all that matter, but we showed how confident we are by fighting our way back into the game. After we had gone 1-0 down, we never gave them another sniff until we let in that silly goal.

The fact that we had let in two goals as a defensive unit spoiled my own World Cup debut really. I was delighted to play but now I want to help us get over that defeat by beating Colombia. These games are massive games for all of us and once you have played in one you can't wait to do it again.

'My reaction was we had been robbed'

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6/1	2-0	SPAIN	DRAW 13/1
7/1	2-1	SPAIN	BULGARIA 40/1
10/1	3-0	DRAW	SPAN 4/1
11/1	3-1	DRAW	SPAN 4/1
40/1	3-2	DRAW	BULGARIA 10/1
11/2	0-0	BULGARIA	SPAN 25/1
5/1	1-1	BULGARIA	DRAW 13/1
18/1	2-2	BULGARIA	BULGARIA 9/1

Other scores on request. Bets void if match not completed.

4/7 FRANCE 15/8 DRAW DENMARK 6/1
Lyon, Kick-off 3.00pm, Live on BBC.

4/6 S. AFRICA 12/5 DRAW S. ARABIA 10/3
Bordeaux, Kick-off 3.00pm, Highlights on BBC TV.

10/11 NIGERIA 9/4 DRAW PARAGUAY 12/5
Toulouse, Kick-off 8.00pm, Highlights on ITV.

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WORLD CUP 98

Lack of pass master may return to haunt Hoddle

With the encounter in Lens on Friday now effectively make-or-break for England, the critical question remains: have a Gazza-less England the quality, the majesty, to open up world-class opponents with a passing touch of inspiration?

This is not harking back to the omission of Paul Gascoigne. His physical condition did not give Glenn Hoddle the option to select him. But the lack of an alternative, the failure to explore the full potential, perhaps, of Matthew Le Tissier takes on a haunting aspect, particularly with Gheorghe Hagi and Carlos Valderrama in the group.

Measured against his great years, Valderrama idled through the game in Montpellier, his hands on his hips when the side needed leadership and movement. Yet, even at walking pace, this strolling midfielder provided the masterstroke that prised the Tunisia defence apart for the vital goal.

And who, later, picked holes in Tony Adams's attempt to seal England at the rear? Hagi. The little maestro of Romania has, like Valderrama, visibly aged. Unlike Valderrama, he lent everything he had to the run of play, but he had to conserve his strength, to run in bursts, to orchestrate with the mind more than the legs.

Hagi demonstrated, as Valderrama did in a single moment, that class is irreplaceable. Class and vision, a footballing sixth sense: to

Rob Hughes believes that boldness is now the best policy against Colombia

know when an opponent is weak, to know when to deliver the telling pass and guide younger players in for the killer goal in a tight encounter.

England are clearly lacking a player to orchestrate the classical moment of a game in the way that Zinedine Zidane, of France, Ariel Ortega, of Argentina, Dragan Stojkovic, of Yugoslavia, or Zvonimir Boban, of Croatia, all can and have done in this World Cup.

He need not be 100 per cent fit. Most sides, England no less than others, have athletes aplenty to engineer the frenzy of the modern game. But, unless the team possesses a Ronaldo, whose strength, speed and sheer brilliance can take on defences alone, it is an almighty struggle without the special talent of a pass master.

Paul Scholes, burdened after one game with the mantle of Gascoigne, scored a marvellous goal against Tunisia but, hard though he tries, selflessly though he runs, he cannot yet be said to invent the game, cannot replicate the range and vision that catches well-drilled rearguards unawares.

It is late, but not too late, for England to acknowledge that the credo of pressure football, of pace upon pace, fighting spirit augmenting spirit, is not the be-all of international competition. At

home, in the FA Carling Premiership, it is seen as a crime to slow down, to need breathing space. Here, especially now the temperatures are rising, it becomes an art to slow the game down and then to surprise the other side with an injection of pace or artistry.

Colombia have the virtue of cunning to do this, though their full display against Tunisia was sloppy enough at times to have Alan Shearer and — Hoddle willing — Michael Owen slaving. The Colombian is a force of nature, indolent one moment, hungry the next, and capable of deceptively slicing through the best-laid plans. So, it will come as a surprise if England can withstand that guile for 90 minutes.

Therefore, boldness is the cue. England must not go out of this World Cup as lions made meek as lambs. They must believe that, with Valderrama disengaged for long spells, they can command the midfield. They must trade with the Latins and set out with the intention of outscoring the team in yellow.

Part of the message of this first round has come from an underrated country, from Mexico. Even when a goal, or two, down, the Mexicans have been prepared to

gamble, to counter with pace, courage and indomitable will, to feed those bewitching forwards, Luis Hernandez and Caukitemoc Blanco, the opportunities to strike.

Of course, it is easy, from the sidelines, to pick Hoddle's team for him. But if the quality does not exist anywhere in the squad, England will not be world-beaters any more than Hoddle is likely to be. The case for Steve McManaman to be included, to run at defences, to take them on with his willingness and his stamina, now becomes a clamour.

Yet how many times has Roy Evans, his manager at Liverpool, cautioned that, while it is right to lavish praise on McManaman, his contribution should be seen in the light that the Liverpool set-up enables him to shine.

To encourage individuality of McManaman's type requires rehearsal upon rehearsal and, with the limited time at his disposal, Hoddle has looked in other directions. It would thus be a surprise if McManaman is given the freedom of the pitch in Lens to do his uninhibited thing.

But with David Beckham mistrusted as a playmaker and with opponents as weak, yet as wily, as Colombia between England and a return ticket home, Hoddle has no more time to pretend he has secrets up his sleeve. There is nothing, and no one unknown, that England can unleash on unsuspecting foes. It is Friday, or never, for England to demonstrate, if it is there, that touch of majesty.



Hagi, left, provided Romania with the inventiveness in midfield that England lacked in Toulouse

England's aspirations are going for a song

Toulouse
They tried to demoralise the English on Monday night, you know, at the so-called "Little Wembley" in Toulouse. Just before the teams came out, they played Elton John's *Candle in the Wind* on the PA — an underhand trick if ever I heard one. "They're playing (sniff) *Candle in the Wind* (sniff)," I said. "Will it (sniff) have the same funerary resonance for the (sniff) Romanians?" And the answer came back soon enough: absolutely not.

This playing of a nation's pop songs before matches is perhaps the most culturally patronising thing about this World Cup. Every time the United States are due to take the field, an orchestra strikes up the famous pump-pump-pa-di-pa of Frank Sinatra's *New York, New York*, and drives everyone mad.

"Chrissakes, let the poor guy rest in peace!" an American journalist exclaimed at the Parc des Princes last week. The trouble is, once a song is in your head, it's in your head. All through the US-Germany game I kept mentally reminding myself I wanted to wake up in the city that never sleeps — an ambition at quite startling variance to my normal snooze-loving character. "Start spreading the news," I instructed nobody in particular. "I'm leaving today." Overwhelmingly, you see, I just wanted to Be A Part Of It (New York, New York).

Anyway, I'm trying to blame disc-jockey psychological warfare for the first half hour of that England-Romania match, because otherwise it would involve being rude about England's coal-heaver, slog-or-what style of play, which has been thrown into such depressing, unignorable highlight by a fortnight's exposure to something rather fighter and finer. Talking such a continental view of the national style would never do, obviously.

It would be both disloyal and patriotically unhelpful at this time and I wouldn't dream of it. It's just that when you are surrounded by the global possibilities of football, one's former wilful blindness



to England's shortcomings begins to look rather puzzling. I mean, ever since starting this football malarkey I have admired lighter-than-air, twinkling players such as David Ginola, yet at the same time utterly resented on England's behalf any cart-horsing, here's-your-nosebag-dobbin epithets slung their way. It's weird.

So it's a kind of crisis, natural in the circumstances. I've seen other countries play with superior flair, as have millions of television viewers, and then watched England play in that awful, pedestrian manner for half an hour until David Beckham came on. That's all that happened. Was it not forgivable to ask in genuine panic, just for a minute, what if all we've got is a huge crowd who sing "Gawd Sive Are Grey Shuskween" like ten thousand Arthur Mullards?

Do we have to leave the country, renounce citizenship? I keep hearing from experts that a draw was what we deserved on Monday — and it is true we made lots of chances. But it still ended with that dreadful picture of Seaman sprawled and Le Saux beat double, after Dan ("Cutie-pie") Petrescu deftly beat them both and won the match for Romania.

It is said that the tragedy of mankind is to turn into the thing you hate. Having always taken the view that persistent England disparagers are perfectly at liberty to live abroad, I can identify my own destined comeuppance all too clearly. Oh well. When

I start reading the *Gazzetta della Sport*, take me to Dover in a van. The point is, perhaps, that the team were just upset by the song and took a while to get over it, and then, after 33 minutes, Beckham came on, everybody brightened up and remembered to play football, and it was for a while a fair old scorcher of a match.

And Beckham was fabulous in the central position, an inspiring sight. Suddenly the ball was being passed to players not where they were already standing, but in the position they might wish to find themselves in a couple of seconds, were they to consider (say) piercing the Romania defence at considerable speed.

I was always a wicked waste to play Beckham on the wing because he's got all-round radar. Watch him run along and he's not got his head down against the wind; he's also not mesmerised by the present position of the ball. He glances all the time left and right, as alert to movement as a squirrel with a guilty conscience. He makes long, elegant passes of fantastic precision. I recently heard a pundit opine that Beckham doesn't have a "football brain". Which was a bit like Glenn Hoddle saying Owen wasn't a natural goal-scorer. Basically, there's no end to the injustice masquerading as wisdom in this world.

Anyway, let's hope the authorities adjust the playlist before the England match on Friday. Recollecting the inspiring tracks usually played at Wembley, we can't really expect the supremacist Queen sing-alongs ("No time for losers", and so on). But from where I'm sitting, I'd happily plump for the famous Wimbledon theme *Remember You're a Womble*, which always sets a cheerful tone of English understatement. If there's one thing that the England team have uniquely, it's a sense of humour. And what harm can befall us, after all, if only we remember, member, member what a womble, womble, womble we are?

LYNNE TRUSS

WORLD CUP DIARY

Odds mounting against manager

WILLIAM HILL has opened a book on who will succeed Glenn Hoddle if England lose to Colombia in Lens on Friday. Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, heads the field at 2-1 on, with Roy Hodgson, of Blackburn Rovers, second favourite at 4-1 and Kevin Keegan at 5-1. Paul Gascoigne is 100-1.

banned from watching or listening to matches at work and who ask if they can have an open line to the commentary. What number do frustrated football enthusiasts call? A spokeswoman said: "I had better not tell you or otherwise we might not have enough spare lines for our business calls."

satisfied with their performances in the World Cup, but few have such an ambition as Jorge Campos, the captain of Mexico. He was once a striker and hankers to return to his old role. Campos says: "My personal ambition is to play in the outfield during the tournament. However, at the end of the day, it is the coach who makes the decision and I am not going to get my hopes up."

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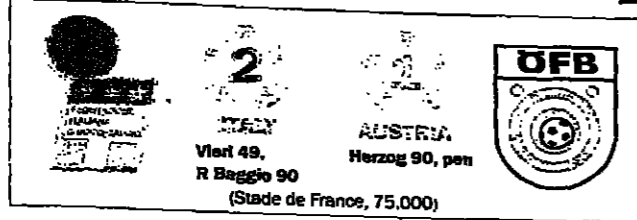
Baggio

Chile street as they bo

WORLD CUP 98

Late strike confirms place in second round despite Austrian opposition

Baggio supplies Italy's insurance



FROM BRIAN GLANVILLE

ITALY made sure of reaching the second round of these World Cup finals with a victory over an Austria team that gave them a great deal more trouble than they might have expected.

Luigi di Biagio, the AS Roma midfielder player who has been the surprise of this Italy team, a vigorously influential figure at the age of 27, said he was not surprised that Austria had proved difficult opponents because they had nothing to lose.

However, Maldini and the accomplished, 34-year-old defensive substitute, Giuseppe Bergomi, emphasised that a cloud hung over the Italy celebrations; Alessandro Nesta, carried off the field after a second-minute collision with Heimo Pfeifenberger, the Austria midfielder player, has almost certainly damaged knee ligaments and will take no further part in the competition.

For Bergomi, a World Cup winner in Madrid 16 years ago, it was a cool and impressive return to this demanding stage. The advent of Arrigo Sacchi as the Italy coach in 1990 had seemed to spell the end of his career, and, indeed, eight years lie between this convincing appearance and his last game in World Cup

finals. It has to be said that Nesta, breaking powerfully out of defence, was guilty of the foul that brought about his own downfall.

Maldini had unexpectedly preferred Gianluca Pessotto, the Juventus wing back, winning only his fifth cap, in midfield to Demetrio Albertini, who had looked a lost soul out on the flank rather than in the middle, the position that he prefers.

Italy and Austria have been playing each other for three quarters of a century and have clashed in a World Cup semi-final, in 1934, which may explain the scant respect that the Austrians gave Italy for so much of the game. Wolfgang Feiersinger, their sweeper, was a dominating presence in defence, sometimes a surprisingly technical one, but even he got nowhere near the formidable Christian Vieri when he suddenly and dramatically unblocked the result, as the Italians say, at the start of the second half.

Alessandro del Piero delivered one of his exquisite, curling right-foot free kicks from the left and Vieri rose, forcing his way like a classic British centre forward between the Austria defenders to head the ball past Konsel. That, Di Biagio said, had put an end to the Italians' tension.

The first half had been a curiously sterile one in which Paul Durkin, the English referee, had sometimes seemed strangely permissive. Del Piero once almost wriggled through alone, but, against that, just before the break, Bergomi had had to be alert to block a shot by Vastic, the naturalised Croatian who had scored the last-gasp equaliser against Chile.

When Vieri came off in the



Roberto Baggio is flanked by the celebrating Inzaghi, left, and Pessotto after claiming a last-minute goal for Italy

second half, he was replaced by the slighter, quicker Filippo Inzaghi, who flourished particularly when Del Piero had given way to Roberto Baggio.

For all Italy's increasing pressure, Austria so nearly equalised midway through the half, when Hannes Reinmayr's corner was flicked on for Arnold Weid to produce a spectacular bicycle kick that

Pagliuca managed to save at the second attempt. Inzaghi's enterprising pace was now giving the Austria defence substantial trouble. One of his runs sent Francesco Moriero through all alone. Either he should have scored himself, or he should have squared the ball to one of his unmarked colleagues. Instead, he shot deplorably wide. Yet there would be

another goal for Italy, Roberto Baggio working a superb exchange with Inzaghi before converting the chance.

Austria, however, had the last goal, if not the last word, when, almost at the death, Alessandro Costacurra brought down Reinmayr and Andreas Herzog drove home the penalty kick.

ITALY (1-2-3-2): G Pagliuca (Internazionale) - A Costacurra (AC Milan) - F Cannavaro (Parma), A Nesta (Lazio),

sub: G Bergomi, Internazionale, 2nd; - F Moriero (Internazionale), G Pessotto (Juventus), D Baggio (Parma), L di Biagio (AS Roma), P Maldini (AC Milan) - A del Piero (Juventus), sub: R Baggio (Internazionale), 72; C Vieri (Atletico Madrid), sub: F Inzaghi, Juventus, 60. AUSTRIA (1-2-5-2): M Kersch (AS Rom) - Schönbauer (Real Sociedad), sub: P Stöger, Linz, 73; H Pfeifenberger (Werder Bremen), sub: A Hezoz, Werder Bremen, 79; H Reinmayr (Sturm Graz), A Weid (Rapid Wien) - F Vastic (Sturm Graz), A Postler (FC Cologne), sub: M Haas, Sturm Graz, 91. Referee: P Durkin (England)

Mogadon and Salami lead to feverish night

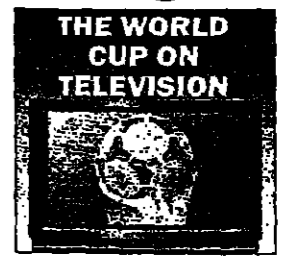
AN ENTERTAINING day for the viewer. Chris Waddle, co-commentating for the BBC during its afternoon match between Colombia and Tunisia, had done his best but, again, failed in glorious style. "Superb play by Ben Salami," he said of Mehdi Ben Slimane, the Tunisia striker. "I thought Mogadon was going to catch it," referring to Mondragon, the Colombia goalkeeper. Waddle is rewriting the World Cup dictionary in double-quick fashion; fascinating stuff.

And then it all went horribly wrong, with England huffing, puffing and ultimately imploding against Romania. The wailing went on long into the night, swirling around the country in a wave of self-pity and recrimination. All channels had their eye and the object of their damnation was clear: Glenn Hoddle, the England coach.

The "David Beckham And Michael Owen Must Play" lobby had a field day. Why did Beckham play only when Paul Ince was injured? Why was it left so late before Owen was introduced? Had Hoddle lost his marbles? Everyone suddenly became an expert, even the patently unqualified; everyone offered an opinion, however ill-considered and outrageous. It was not a time for rational thinking.

Kevin Keegan, Waddle's counterpart on ITV, should have known better. Beckham had barely drawn breath, after joining the fray, before Keegan was eulogising about the blond Manchester United midfielder player. He said later: "He's been left out of the side. I don't know why, but he won't be left out again."

After Owen had scored the equaliser, Keegan said of the supporters' ecstatic reaction: "Forty thousand people can't be wrong. Sometimes the fans know more than the manager. He's come on and answered



their prayers." What tosh. Keegan then compounded an abject display, delivered in a mournful, almost funereal, tone throughout, with the words that will haunt him all the way back to Craven Cottage: "There's only going to be one winner now." He was not referring to Romania.

And so it went on. Bobby Robson, the ITV analyst, described it as "a little bit of a disaster". Sky News paraded Professor Peter Terry, a sports psychologist, to discuss the deeper meaning of defeat, and Fantasy World Cup Live tried to be cheerful and upbeat. Noel Gallagher, of Oasis, one of Skinner and Baddiel's guests, raised only an embarrassed titter with his crass gag: "That's the last time I do a charity gig for the Romanian kids."

Concluding the England post-mortem, Under The Moon, Channel 4's phone-in and chat show, allowed Uri Geller, the spoon-bender and rabid self-publicist, too much time to air again his personal grievances. Who really cares that he has fallen out with Hoddle, let alone with Reading FC?

Of all the outpouring of national grief, perhaps the most relevant observation came from Sky News shortly after the final whistle. If England finish runners-up in group G, and beat Argentina or Croatia in the last 16, they are scheduled to play the quarter-final and semi-final in Mar-seilles. Now that could be a little bit of a disaster.

RUSSELL KEMPSON

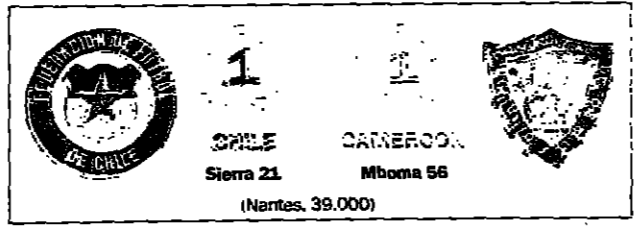
Chile stretched by nine men as they book date with Brazil

THOSE who believe that Marcelo Salas can threaten Ronaldo's position as the world's most fearsome striker will have the perfect opportunity for comparison on Saturday when Chile face Brazil at the Parc des Princes in the tournament's second round.

There were moments here yesterday, though, when it seemed we might not be seeing Salas again in this World Cup as Cameroon made brutal attempts to stifle the forward, who has joined Lazio for £12 million. Two of their players were sent off, one for a vicious elbow in the face and the other for a stupid hack at Salas's precious left leg.

Even when they were reduced to nine men, though, Cameroon threatened to embarrass Chile by snatching the late winner through at the South Americans' expense and, to a man, neutrals in the ground willed them on in a frenetic finale.

The Africans might not have been indomitable, but they were certainly indefatigable and, if one despaired at their lack of discipline, you could not help but admire the resilience and unbridled enthusiasm that brought them an equaliser even when they were



FROM MATT DICKINSON

down to ten men. They could so easily have won this game and their farewell was a bitter one as Claude Le Roy, their French coach, who is now resigning to take charge of Strasbourg, rightly claimed that his side was unfairly denied what would have been a crucial goal just two minutes after their equaliser.

Laszlo Vagner, the Hungarian referee, inexplicably blew for a foul as Mboma's header set up Omam Biyick for an easy finish and Le Roy wasted no time after the game in drawing the attention of Sepp Blatter, the next Fifa president, to the injustice.

"I feel so sorry for my players because they have gone out of the World Cup because of an incompetent refereeing decision," he said. "I simply cannot figure out why it was denied. I don't

think this is what football is all about and I hope Mr Blatter is watching. Some people might complain about sour grapes but I am not saying anything about the red cards."

So once more a capacity crowd trooped out of a World Cup stadium discussing the referee. Not that anyone was criticising the official's decision to dismiss Rigobert Song after 52 minutes.

The Cameroon defender had been lucky to survive that long. Booked after just seven minutes, he could have picked up another caution when he fouled Ivan Zamorano on the edge of the penalty area after 20 minutes. If he thought he had escaped lightly, however, punishment was soon to follow as José Sierra whipped the free kick into the top corner. One-nil to Chile, and spectacularly so.

Song's liking for red and yellow was evident from his dashing choice of boots, with one of each hue. He completed his colourful card collection, too, after 51 minutes with an elbow that crashed into Salas's chin.

That should have been the end for Cameroon, but reveling in adversity, they simply got stronger, keeping three men forward and posing Chile all sorts of problems. Harry Redknapp, the West Ham United manager, and Frank Lampard, his assistant, were in Nantes yesterday to finalise the £2 million transfer of Javier Margas. The Chile centre-half's cumbersome first-half display suggested he would fit perfectly into the FA Carling Premiership, although he did improve as the game went on.

So, though, did Cameroon who drew level through Mboma's looping header in the 56th minute and were then denied, first by the referee and then by some increasingly frantic defending from Chile. The South Americans held on, although by no means convincingly, even after the slightly harsh dismissal of Etame, to book that date with Brazil. Margas might not have too many problems against Charlton Athletic's attack next season but you would not put too much money on him subduing Ronaldo.

Impressive when they attack through the mercurial left foot of Salas and the dazzling right of Zamorano, Chile remain weak at the back.

With three draws, they have yet to win at this World Cup. By Saturday evening, they should know how it feels to lose.

CHILE (3-4-1-2): N Tapia (Universidad Católica) - P Reyes (Colo Colo), R Fuentes (Universidad Católica), J Morales (Universidad Católica) - M Villarreal (Wanderers), sub: F Canales, Universidad Católica, 70min; C Acosta (Universidad de Chile), N Parra (Universidad Católica), F Rojas (Colo Colo), sub: M Ramirez, Universidad Católica, 75; - J Sierra (Colo Colo), sub: F Estay, Iquica, 90; - M Salas (Lazio) / Zamorano (Internazionale). CAMEROON (3-4-3): J Song'o (Espérance La Cornouaille) - M Penrose (AFC Chippa), P Njonta (Apostrophe), B Song (Metz) - M Mboma (Montpellier), J Ndé (Coton Sport), sub: L Etame, Bata, 82; S Olembe (Nantes), sub: D Anghoué, Nico, 68; P Wome (Luchesse) - F Mboma (Camero Ouhang), F Omam Biyick (Camero Ouhang), J Jé (Ivory), sub: A Tchame (Hansa Bielefeld 72). Referee: L Vagner (Hungary)



Sierra's perfectly struck free kick soars into the top corner to put Chile ahead

Advertisement for Nastro Azzurro beer. Features a bottle of beer and a glass of beer. Text includes: 'Ciao Austria', 'We send our congratulations to Austria. But, being called Agguaro (which means blue ribbon) you'll understand why our hopes are still with the Agguari. After all, you have to look after Numero Uno.', 'Peroni's Nastro Agguaro. Italy's Numero Uno Beer.'

Champion produces solid opening performance to overcome Raymond in straight sets

Grin and grit lift Hingis over difficult obstacle

What the hell is she grinning at? That's what bugs me. Mr Slater, our Latin teacher, used to say: "Grinning, laddie? Two sides of irregular verbs." Martina Hingis should spend the aftermath of this and every match...

SIMON BARNES



At Wimbledon

Well, if she didn't get all four in one season, she'd surely do it the next year. Missing a grand slam was just like missing the No 19 bus: there'll be another one along in a minute...

When opponents know just a little bit more about you, and theories about how to beat you circulate through the locker-rooms of your sport...

17-year-old unknown, but to win it the next year. It is also why Dominic Cork - who really did think that cricket was an easy game - is more admirable in his comeback than in his explosive first season in international cricket...



Hingis showed nerveless control in her rain-delayed match against Raymond on Centre Court yesterday

lures her opponent about the court on each point and puts her through the ringer as the match develops. Her shots are not a thing of beauty in themselves but there is beauty to be found in the way she constructs a point...

much an enemy as an accomplice in her own demise. Coming out from the rain delay after a very hard first set, Hingis reeled off three games in a few minutes to end all doubts. Grinning away at the press conference, she talked about the possible benefits of a tough first match...

looks slimmer and fitter, though not excessively, her hair now dyed black with chestnut locks. This attempt at looking grown-up makes her look oddly vulnerable when her face is in repose. And then that grin comes back again. And no one can cope with that...

kindled. Hingis has shown a certain amount of vulnerability this year. The usual problems of the sophomore season have certainly affected her. But how much? It is impossible to say, but it will take a player at the absolute peak of her game to beat her because this is one very tough player. A good deal more will be seen of those tiger's teeth before this fortnight is over.

Rain gives Cowan the chance to regroup

By Nick Szczepanik

AFTER a poor Wimbledon opening day for Britain's men, Tim Henman apart, yesterday's order of play offered further opportunities for them to give the public what they want - a win or two over a big name player who is, more than likely, as comfortable playing tennis on grass as he would be on ice...

Cowan, from Lancashire, was also at the mercy of the elements, but with his match first up on Court No 4 he was at least able to start, and started promisingly against Hendrik Dreekmann, of Germany, who is ranked 96th in the world...

Ungainly Williams stays back to move forward

By Alex Ramsay



Williams: off the mark

WELL, at least it is a step in the right direction. Venus Williams, who is tipped as the future of women's tennis, especially by herself and her father, improved her Wimbledon record 100 per cent yesterday by winning a match. It was not a great match - not even a very good one - but it did go in her favour...

place she wants to be. Although having shown no signs of having come to grips with the concept of the volley, she announced last week in Eastbourne that she was a natural serve-and-volley player. When pressed as to when she might reveal this hitherto unknown talent, she said: "When I play on grass..."

about as natural as a giraffe on roller skates. Admittedly the damp conditions and the long interruption for rain did not help, but she was hardly up against the toughest of opponents. Had Williams been playing someone with the talents and the nerve to expose her weaknesses, it would have been a very different story. Unfortunately, Nejedly opted to play Williams at her own game and given the chance to belt the ball from the baseline, Venus

little sister, Serena, in the second round. Together the sisters form a formidable team - they talk tough. Both will point out that to become the sort of champions they believe they can be involves not just "talking the talk but walking the walk". But on grass standing upright may prove difficult for Venus if she faces an opponent with an idea of how to play on it. Not that she sees it that way. "Everyone wants to win"

Wimbledon, all the players who have done well this year, and I am one of those players," she said, refusing to state outright that she has a real chance of going the full distance. "I don't overestimate or underestimate my opponents. I'm just going to prepare for my next match. And all the ones after that," she said. Williams obviously intends to stick around for a few days yet. The question is, will she be allowed to?

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This was a good defence by Stuart Tredinnick, in the 1997 trials to select the English team for the home internationals.

Bridge game analysis: Dealer South, East-West Game, Teams. Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: four of diamonds.

After South's ultra-light opening North-South arrived in a good game. West (Tredinnick) got off to the best start when he led a diamond. Declarer put in the seven from dummy and ruffed East's nine. Then he played a trump to dummy and led a spade to the queen and ace. How should West defend? At this point West could see declarer was threatening to set up a spade trick - after all, his opening bid must surely contain the jack of spades, as he was known to have no high cards in the minors...

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kasparov fights back Today's game started Kasparov's fightback in the speed chess tournament in Frankfurt. Ukrainian grandmaster Vassily Ivanchuk stepped in at the last minute to replace Anatoly Karpov who withdrew.

Diagram of final position. Chess Classic Frankfurt 1998. Sicilian Defence.

Chess Trophy The Chess Trophy for London Clubs sponsored by the Mind Sports Olympiad saw a number of overwhelming 4-0 victories in the first round. Pairings for round two of this knockout tournament are as follows: Chelsea Arts Club v RAC B; RAC A v Oxford and Cambridge A; Home House v Hurlingham A and Athenaeum v BBC. Times book The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01576 331276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

WINNING MOVE. By Raymond Keene. White to play. This position is from the game Dannevig - Fossan, Gausdal, 1988. Black has won the battle on the queenside, but is about to lose the war on the kingside. How did White continue? Solution on page 46

WORD-WATCHING. By Philip Howard. SETENANT a. Detached, in heraldry b. Attached, in philately c. Moustached, in trichology. WAKA a. A slip-lift b. Intellectual snobbery c. Sweet white wine. Answers on page 46

AN EXCLUSIVE WORLD CUP GAME THE TIMES PLAY TEAM CHECK TO WIN CASH PRIZES WORTH £50,000 PLUS 10 VAUXHALL CARS AND WORLD CUP TICKETS TO BE WON. Prize winners: Week 2 Sandra Hart, Washington, Tyne & Wear, wins a Corsa Breeze and £715; Geoff Messett, Staines, and Philip Greenwood, Banstead, Surrey, each win world cup tickets and £715. George Farnham, London E13, Keith Steward, Wirral, Patricia Sharp, Wrexham and Graham Eadie, Manchester each win £715. HOW TO PLAY THE TIMES GAME. HOW TO PLAY THE ITV GAME WITH VAUXHALL. MORE NUMBERS FOR THE ITV/VAUXHALL WEEK 3 GAME WILL BE BROADCAST TOMORROW. CARS WORTH £100,000 TO BE WON.



TENNIS 45-46 Rusedski plays through the pain barrier

SPORT

WEDNESDAY JUNE 24 1998

TOMORROW Craig Burley on a sad end to France 98



Burley's sending-off adds to despair of Brown's team but Moroccan victory proves in vain

Scotland forced to face home truth

Scoreboard: Scotland 0, Morocco 3. Goalscorers: Basir (22, 62), Hadda (47).

FROM KEVIN MCCARRA

IF A sense of justice could take away the pain of defeat, this result would not hurt Scotland at all.

Grief is never distributed evenly. The regret will be felt most strongly by Craig Burley, sent off for a tackle from behind when the score was 2-0.

GROUP A

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for Brazil, Norway, Morocco, Scotland.

that he had not been entirely blameless at the first two goals.

Five minutes from the end, Basir scored his own second of the night to clinch a 3-0 victory that still, agonisingly, failed to send Morocco gliding into the second round.

There are few matches in which each side is confident of preying upon the other.

inferior. This game was different and well-armed egos were in collision.

The origins of Scotland's self-belief were murkier. They had not won any of their previous seven matches and faith stemmed from the conviction that there had been a growing elegance about their play in the 2-1 defeat by Brazil.

Those people had no cause to consider themselves naive, but they were still to encounter a stab of dejection when their team conceded the goal that left Scotland lagging at the interval.

He was to have no such quibbles in the 22nd minute. The powerful El Khalej, who is commonly referred to by his first name of Tahar, lifted a long pass over the head of Hendry and the slight Basir skimmed over the surface in pursuit to crash a drive from the left that beat Leighton at the near post and found the net.

Basir was already a hero to his own people, famed for the sort of patriotic exploit that saw him travel for 18 hours to arrive just before an international match in which he was too weary to claim a place in



Basir wheels away in celebration after scoring Morocco's first goal, leaving behind the dejected figures of Leighton, the Scotland goalkeeper, Hendry and Boyd, right

the starting line-up, but, as a substitute, eventually notched the goal that beat Egypt. Although that had been an epic trip, it was as nothing compared to the voyage on which he set Morocco last night.

but, prior to the interval, there was just one genuine chance for Scotland. Collins found the predatory Burley in space on the right, after 39 minutes, and the midfielder's drive had to be beaten away.

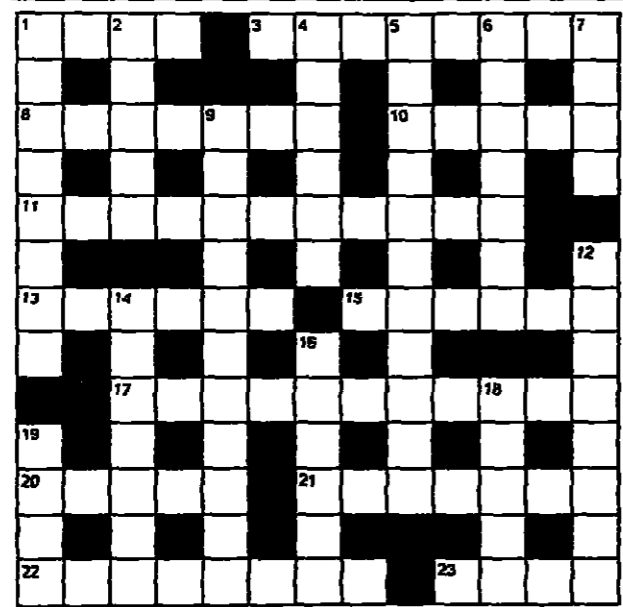
Leighton reached Haddah's chipped shot, but could do no more than thrust it upwards into a lazy arc that gave the goalkeeper time to turn and watch the ball complete its parabola by dropping into the net.

who gave this match its flavour by scoring the goal against Norway last week that rescued his country's prospects. Yesterday he found his fleeting joy can prove at the World Cup, Burley is only the latest in a dismayingly long line of Scotsmen to have made that discovery.

SCOTLAND THE GRAVE

Will Scotland ever reach the second round of the World Cup finals? France 98 is their eighth failure in eight attempts.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1440

- ACROSS: 1 Bird; child's toy (4); 3 Miserable (8); 8 Byre (7); 10 Provide with the necessary (5); 11 Request for permission (2-4-5); 13 Grey matter of brain (6); 15 Car fuel (6); 17 Awkward, bankrupt, position (5,6); 20 Brittle, lively, neat (5); 21 Biting tooth (7); 22 Cheapest ship fare (once) (8); 23 Story of gods, heroes (4).

SOLUTION TO NO 1439 ACROSS: 1 Postscript 8 Sceptic 9 Newel 10 Yoke 11 Sparkler 13 Barge 14 Cathy 16 Inveigle 17 Knob 20 Hyena 21 Cringed 22 Vehemently

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE! The Times Two Crosswords (Book 7-12, 1998). The Times Crosswords (Book 20) (1998-1999).

Norway impose rough justice

Scoreboard: Brazil 1, Norway 2. Goalscorers: Bebeto (78), Rivaldo (88 pen).

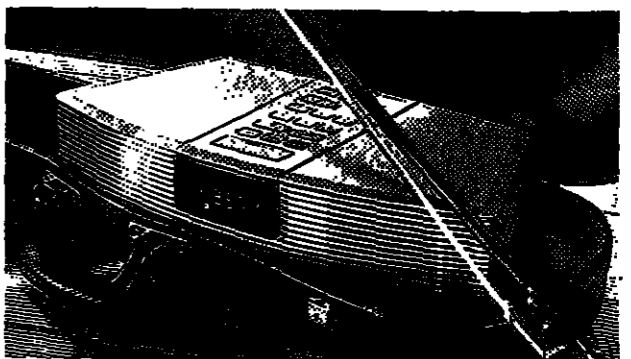
FROM ROB HUGHES

MAY the football gods spare us from inept American referees. With barely minutes to go and Norway depressingly smothering the Beautiful Game, Brazil content to preserve their limbs for the second round.

spark of inspiration. Denilson, who this summer becomes the most expensive player in the world when he moves to Sevilla, was the antithesis of the tall and muscular Norwegians: slender of limb and of torso, he tried briefly to show that his movement can be as elusive as an eel.

goal against Scotland was a warning that mere survival in Marseille could mean elimination from the tournament, and, unless they tempered their organised frustration with something a little more daring, which of us would weep if Norway went back across the water...

card, so high, so late and so foul was the boot on Roberto Carlos. At last the breach of that oppressive red wall came: it was due to the persistence and quality of Denilson, who, getting off his knees where a tackle had put him, wriggled free and, with his left foot, guided the ball invitingly into the Norway six-yard box.



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THE WORLD CUP TODAY page 41 3.00 France v Denmark (BBC), S Africa v S Arabia. 8.00 Spain v Bulgaria (ITV), Nigeria v Paraguay

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'A recom' and 'BUY IT!'.